

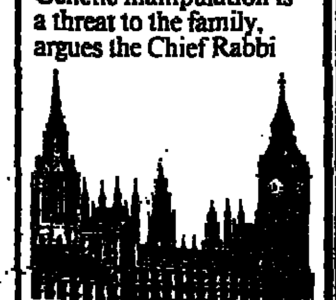
THE TIMES

No 62,012 FRIDAY DECEMBER 14 1984 20p

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

After Warnock
Genetic manipulation is a threat to the family, argues the Chief Rabbi



Enemies within
Woodrow Wyatt on the power of party rebels in Parliament

A great act
The tradition of amateur drama, from the inspiration to the ovation

Going in for the kill
The Wallabies, with the grand slam behind them, now aim to humble the Barbarians

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mrs Judith Paul, who lives in Horsham, West Sussex. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page.

Beatles win legal battle with EMI

The Beatles have won their High Court dispute with EMI and may receive up to £4 million in underpaid royalties and interest from some of their earliest songs **Page 3**

NHS chief

The chairman of the newly created National Health Service management board is to be Mr Victor Paige, at present chairman of the Port of London Authority **Page 2**

M40 decision

Work on extending the M40 will begin in 1987, the Government announced. But environmental doubts remain over 11 miles of the route **Page 2**



Kasparov win

Gary Kasparov, challenger in the Moscow world chess championship, won his first game yesterday when the titleholder, Anatoly Karpov, phoned through his resignation in the 32nd game after an overnight adjournment **Page 7**

President held

President Haidalla of Mauritania, overthrown in his absence on Wednesday, flew home to Nouakchott and was immediately arrested.

Briton accused

A second Briton, Alan Russell, a Suffolk teacher, appeared in a Libyan court, to face five charges, one security-related **Page 6**

Thatcher praises record to rekindle backbench support

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher set out last night to persuade her divided backbench supporters that despite current troubles the Government was out-performing the previous Conservative administration elected in 1979.

Output, inflation, profits and productivity were all greatly improved by comparison with the situation after the first 18 months of her first term as Prime Minister. Unemployment was not rising so fast.

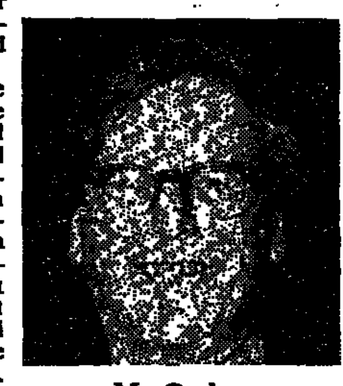
In her twice-yearly speech to the Conservative 1922 Committee, delivered privately in a Westminster committee room, Mrs Thatcher agreed with the committee's newly elected chairman, Mr Cranley Onslow, that communications between ministers and other ranks in the party might well be improved. She came near to asking for unity when wishing her followers a Happy Christmas and "a United New Year".

Mr Onslow, presiding for the first time, welcomed the Prime Minister by saying that good communications were essential to effective government – communications between an MP and his constituency supporters and equally between a government and its backbenchers. The committee was most anxious to maintain the best possible exchange of ides at all levels and to improve these exchanges in anyway possible, he said.

He had also asked the chairman of Party Backbench Committees to look again at their contracts with their ministers and to "improve consultation over the formulation of government policy".

In the accepted language of the party, Mr Onslow was saying plainly that minister were making too many mistakes by failing to heed the backbenchers' views. Mrs Thatcher responded by saying she looked forward to suggestions for improving the communications. "My door is always open, as you know," she said.

She then made a half-apology for the shortening by five days of the coming Christmas recess, because of expected difficulties



Mr Onslow

with constitutional Bills on the Commons floor.

She said nothing about the topics which in recent weeks have roused Conservative MPs against their leaders – student grant, overseas aid, the Local Government Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and Metropolitan county councils. But she went quickly to the argument which has gripped the party about the determination of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Prime Minister's backing, to make room for cuts in direct personal taxation in the next budget.

Higher tax was no part of Conservative philosophy, she said. It killed enterprise and initiative. There was a need to raise tax thresholds on grounds of equity. There was a need to raise tax thresholds on grounds of equity, since 12 million tax payers were earning £8,000 a year or less, and six million less than £5,000.

A man and wife with two children could be better off without work, unless thir earnings came to £130 a week. "They cannot look to a Socialist overnmnt, they look to us to do more for them."

Mrs Thatcher addressed the argument put even by some of her ministers that more public investment would be the best way of reducing unemployment.

Back to work: Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip, leaving his office in Downing St yesterday for the Commons where he returned to his seat two months and a day after he was severely injured in the IRA bomb attack on the Cabinet in the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

At about 3.10 pm, five minutes before Prime Minister's question time, Mr Wakeham entered the Commons chamber from the Member's Lobby on crutches, and made his way steadily, and unassisted, to his seat at the end of the Government front-bench.

Conservative MPs, and the majority of the Opposition MPs stood, cheered and waved their order papers to salute the bravery of the man who lost his wife in the blast. He was also welcomed by deputy leader Roy Hattersley.

Mr Hattersley told Mr Wakeham that his presence personified the triumph of democracy over terrorism. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst). Parliament, page 4

US judge refuses to extradite IRA killer

From Christopher Thomas Washington

A United States federal judge yesterday rejected a British request to extradite a convicted IRA murderer, ruling that the killing was a political act exempt from the US-British extradition treaty.

John Patrick Thomas Doherty escaped from prison in Belfast in June 1981, two days before a judge found him guilty of murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons and membership of the proscribed IRA.

District Judge John Sprizzo, ruling in New York, said: "The facts of this case present the assertion of the political-offence exception (of the extradition treaty) in its most classic form." The ruling means that Doherty will be allowed to remain in America, at least for now.

It is the third time that extradition of IRA men has been rejected by American courts. In August 1981 a New York court refused to extradite Desmond Mackin, who was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of British soldier in Belfast in 1978. He was subsequently deported to the Irish Republic because he was an illegal immigrant.

In May 1979 a California court refused to extradite Peter McMullan, who was wanted in connection with an attempted murder. British authorities alleged he had admitted involvement in the bombing of a British Army target in Ripon, Yorkshire, in 1974, and also in an attack on Palace Barracks, Belfast, in 1972.

In the latest case, Doherty admitted that he was among a group of IRA gunmen who took over a Belfast house on May 2, 1980, planning to ambush a British Army convoy. The house was approached three or four hours later by five members of the Army's Special Air Service. Shots were exchanged, killing Captain Herbert Richard Westmacott of the SAS. Doherty was captured.

The Judge ruled: "The death of Captain Westmacott, while a most tragic event, occurred in the context of an attempted ambush of a British Army patrol. It was the British Army's response to that action that gave rise to Captain Westmacott's death."

Pension hint by cautious Lawson

By Our Political Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson said yesterday that there was no need for people to retire prematurely before the Budget because of concern that they would be disadvantaged by tax changes if they retired after it.

This form of words was extracted from him in the Commons by Mr Roy Hattersley after earlier answers had failed to satisfy MPs afraid that tax free lump sums, taken in lieu of pension on retirement, would become liable to tax.

The Chancellor began with a formula apparently designed to reassure the pensions industry and people approaching retirement. Asked about rumours that lump sums would be taxed, he said that no Chancellor could confirm or deny rumours about the contents of his next Budget, "But I can assure the House that there is no need for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours."

MPs pressed him to say if pensions would be affected by a change in the tax treatment of contributions or of investment fund income. Mr Lawson was unwilling to go further.

Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said it would help if he could say that any change in the tax situation would apply only to membership of pension schemes which began after his Budget was presented. Mr Lawson would not say.

Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing welcomed his condemnation of retrospection, and asked: "Would it not be retrospective if changes were made in future taxation of lump sum pensions with relation to contributions which have been made in the past?"

Mr Lawson said he was not sure quite what Mr Higgins meant, but he thought the answer was "yes".

Mr Hattersley said that what caused the uncertainty was the fear, not of retrospection, but that new regulations would be applied to the period after the budget. The Chancellor should end the uncertainty.

Dr Donagh McDonald, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said that Mr Lawson's prevarication had served to create more insecurity. **Parliament, page 4**

Ministers play down MPs' revolt over GLC

By Anthony Bevins and Hugh Clayton

Disappointed senior ministers expect the House of Lords to give the controversial Local Government Bill a much rougher ride as a result of a collapse in the Government's majority early yesterday morning.

In a key vote on a Tory backbench amendment to replace the GLC with another directly-elected authority after a Commons select committee inquiry, the Government beat the coalition of opponents by 233 votes to 210, a record low majority of 23.

Embarrassed ministers tried to play down the extent of the back-bench reballion yesterday saying that there had been larger revolts since last year's election. It was said that 17 tories had voted against the Government, a dozen had deliberately abstained and two had acted as tellers for the rebels.

Nevertheless, the collapse of the majority was a disappointment for Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and although the whips refused to give any figures for those absent without leave it is thought that as many as 30 had been unaccounted for on the night.

The fact remains that hostile peers will seize the narrowness of the Government majority – down from a opposition to the abolition of a directly-elected authority for London.

That hazard was recognized last night by ministers, if only because the House of Lords has establised a stringent resistance to rubber-stamping measures which have only survived the Commons because of the Government's landslide majority.

London should have a directly-elected council of no more than 40 members after the abolition of the GLC, Mr Alan Greengross, leader of the GLC's Conservative minority said yesterday. The new council should have a Londonwide strategic hole in planning, the arts and emergency services with a much smaller staff and budget than the GLC.

He made it clear at county hall that Tories there wanted

Continued on back page, col 2

TUC seeks pit peace amid scepticism

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The latest peace initiative in the 40-weeks old pit strike gets under way this morning amid mounting scepticism among the key parties to the dispute.

Leaders of the Trades Union Congress will urge Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to authorize the National Coal Board to negotiate a new *Plan for Coal* with the National Union of Mineworkers to bring up to date the 1974 programme for the industry.

The "elder statesmen" of the Labour movement regard this as the most promising avenue towards a settlement of the strike, but their optimism is not wholly shared by the principal combatant.

Mr Ian McGregor, chairman of the Coal Board, said yesterday: "I am not a party to discussions but I doubt if they will lead to anything.

"But there has got to be something new to say and Mr Scargill (Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President) keeps on



Mr McGahey: Anxious for principled settlement.

repeating the standard formula. I have not seen or heard anything which makes me think they have got anything new to offer."

Mr MacGregor's comments came after a meeting of the union's national executive committee in Sheffield which gave a unanimous but cautious welcome to the TUC initiative.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general Secretary of the union, said: "In December 1984, we must question the relevance of the declaration on March 6 by the National Coal Board to close 20 pits in the present financial year, which expires in less than four months' time. It seems to us no longer relevant and we hope that they could accept this."

The union insists that its change in bargaining strategy towards acceptance that the coal board should "not proceed with" the proposal to shut down four million tonnes of capacity rather than "completely withdraw" this plan is a genuine concession. But up to now it has been regarded by the coal board the Cabinet ministers alike as no more than a cosmetic shift.

Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president of the union, who chaired yesterday's executive meeting in the absence of Mr Scargill, who was answering a charge of obstruction at Rotherham Magistrates' Court, said: "We welcome the TUC's decision to take this initiative. We hope it is fruitful".

The miners' leaders expect to have talks with the TUC's

Continued on back page, col 1

Police may act over BT stags

By Alison Eadie

Organized groups of would-be stags, who put in hundreds of applications for shares in British Telecom, have had cheques worth £850,000 cashed, although they have received no shares. They may also face fraud charges.

The Department of Trade and Industry has called in the police on a few cases of multiple application. The BT prospectus stricly stipulated one share application per person.

Fewer than 10 groups have been uncovered, although the number of individuals is not known. The application forms were often filled in with false names. The £850,000 is now in a special account at the Bank of England, but a spokesman for the DoTI said it would be paid back to the applicants eventually.

Several of the multiple applicants, seeing their cheques had been cashed and thinking they had been allocated shares, did the classical stag action – they sold in the stockmarket to make a quick killing, before waiting for the allocation letter to arrive. They discovered when allocation letters were posted on Monday that they have no shares and will have to buy back the shares they have sold in a steadily rising market.

Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank handling the issue, and the accounting firm Peat Marwick Mitchell had devised a system for weeding out multiple applications. Smaller scale multiples were simply thrown out, but a decision was taken to cash the cheques of orgainezed groups who were trying to cheat the system in a big way.

Warnings ignored in Bhopal

From Trevor Fishlock Bhopal

Men who worked at the Union Carbide plant here watched with bitterness and frustration yesterday as thousands more people joined the exodus from the city.

"We told everyone this disaster would happen," factory union officials said. "We warned the company, the state government and the people of Bhopal that there were leaks, bad maintenance and bad safety procedures. But all our warnings fell on deaf ears."

As if to emphasize what they said, a local newspaper reproduced a poster the union pasted up on walls all over the city two years ago. It said: "Warning – save yourselves from death. The lives of hundreds of thousands of people are in danger. The factory is making gas but does not use safety measures."

The Union Carbide workers' union printed 6,000 of the posters as part of its campaign to draw attention to leaks and what it saw as inadequate safety measures. It started the campaign after a man was killed by leaking phosgene gas three years ago. Shortly after that about 30 workers were affected by leaking phosgene.

Mr Hathim Jariwala, the union's president, said that workers felt there would be a disaster if nothing were done. The union approached the Labour Ministry of Madhya Pradesh state and the Chief Minister of the state, but no action was taken. He complained that Union Carbide had the state government "under its thumb" and broke labour lawa with impunity.

Mr Jagdish Gupta, the union

Continued on back page, col 6

ICI to pay $750m for US chemicals company

ICI is to pay $370 million (£625 million) in cash for Beatrice Chemicals, an American company which is worth $155 million, David Young, Energy Correspondent, writes.

Beatrice is one of the leading speciality chemical companies in the world and last year made profits of $63 million on turnover of $440 million. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, said yesterday that the acquisition would put ICI among the world leaders in high growth advanced materials; further the development of its international speciality chemical business and increase the spread of the company's operations in the US.

Beatrice is forecast to make pretax profits of $75 million this year on a turnover of $480 million. It specializes in making high-performance polymers for paints and surface coatings.

ICI, whose shares rose 12p to 682p on the takeover news, recently paid £15.7 million for Coe Laboratories of Chicago.

MEPs reject EEC budget

Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday threw out the £15,500 million EEC budget for next year by 319 votes to five with 16 abstentions (writes Ian Murray).

This means that the new European Commission will take over without a budget at aa time when costs are rising and difficult negotiations to bring Spain and Portugal into the community should be nearing an end.

MEPs explained that they could not pass the budget because it only provided funds for the first ten months of the year. They were not prepared to accept an assurance from member states that extra money would be agreed before October.

Until a new budget, which satisfies the parliament, is put forward, the community will have to survive on monthly payments broadly equivalent to the amount spent this year.

Budget thrown out, page 6

Rising profits send boardroom salaries soaring

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Britian's boardroom salaries, boosted by long-awaited increases in industrial profitability, are outstripping nearly every other wage rate in the economy, and rose in the past year by almost 11 per cent.

A survey of 5,500 directors published today by the Institute of Directors and Reward Regional Surveys, shows that the average director earns £22,500 basic salary and total pay of £25,000, although some earned neary £90,000. In addition, he will have a company car, most likely a Rover, and the usual fringe benfits of pension, life insurance and private health insurance.

The biggest increases have been enjoyed by executive chairmen – on avarage 21.4 per cent in the year – and the gap between the board and the remainder of company managements has grown. Managers received average pay rises in the past year of 6.6 per cent.

Thr report's message for the ambitious, young, high flying manager or director is that he should be earning £22,000 by the age of 30 if he is to be one the "fast track" in the London area. Figures of £12,000 in 1980 and £16,500 in 1983 look "positively antique" when viewed from London, the report says.

DIRECTORS' PAY

	TOP 10% £	MEDIAN £
Full-time Directorship		
Chairman	97,013	44,122
Highest paid director	89,280	43,000
Other directors	67,500	32,500
Part-time directorships		
Chairman	47,500	37,500

"The view from Birmingham, Sheffield and Glasgow is rather different. Even in Aberdeen, when it leapt to fame as a tartan Texas, the increase in salaries baded on North Sea oil did not match the recent explosion for high fliers in London."

It is forecast that the London figure will rise next year to £26,250, of which a quarter is bonuses. The increases show how inflationary and competitive the market for the best directors has become, according to the survey.

"It is hardly surprising that companies are looking at option schemes with their built-in golden handcuffs as one method of reducing salary escalation in this area."

The best salary prospects are in financial and information businesses, up to an average of £27,500 next year, compared with £18,000 in low-technology manufacturing.

Amalgamations of industries in the past 30 years have tended to give executives in large corportions a salary premium of up to 40 per cent but there are signs, says the report, that differentials are closing and that newer, small companies are the trend setters. Next years's forecast for average salary rises is 6 per cent, but 28 per cent of the smaller firms, particularly those with a turnover of less than £1 million, are expecting increases of 10 per cent.

On car-buying policy, less than a third of companies say they buy only British models, compared with 42 per cent last year. Twenty per cent of chairman drive a Jaguar or Daimler, but 12 per cent prefer a Mercedes.

Managing directores also favour Jaguars.

Director Rewards, Reward Regional Surveys, 1, Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8BA; £100.

TUC seeks benefits boost in Budget

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress yesterday launched the first salvo in what promises to be a concerted union campaign to influence next spring's Budget.

The unions will argue for a £2.3 billion injection of public funds to increase benefits paid to what they regard as under-privileged groups: families, the unemployed, pensioners and those on low incomes.

Leaders of the TUC argued yesterday that the cost of the programme could easily be met if Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dropped his plans for £1.5 billion worth of tax cuts in the Budget and from the contingency reserve.

The unions' proposals come on top of a programme drawn up earlier this year to improve the infrastructure of the country through the injection of £6 billion over the next five years. Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the Budget submission was closely allied to the need to boost public spending on capital projects and reduce unemployment.

The TUC is calling for an increase in the single person's retirement pension of £9.80p a week to £45.60 and for a married couple a £16 a week increase, to £73.30.

The TUC wants increased spending on the unempolyed's long term supplementary benfit.

The proposals are mainly aimed at ensuring that child benefit payments are universally available and not means tested. The TUC also is calling for an increase in child benefit payments of £3 a week, taking the payment to £9.85.

Port chief to be £70,000 head of health service management

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The chairman of the newly-created National Health Service management board, whose job, in the words of the Griffiths report, will be "general manager, chief officer or director general" of the health service, is to be Mr Victor Paige, chairman of the Port of London Authority.

He will be paid £70,000 a year, making him the highest paid civil servant after Mr Anthony Wilson, the new head of the Government Accountancy Service. His post will be at Second Permanent Secretary level. Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, earns £42,750.

Mr Paige, aged 59, has the job from January 2 on a three-year contract. He worked with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he was Secretary of State for Transport, as deputy chairman of the National Freight Consortium during its employee buy-out.

Mr Paige said he was "committed to the success of the NHS. I do care about the health service, I do want to make it more effective and efficient and I will do my damnedest to achieve that".

The health service, he said, could not be judged in conventional business terms, but it was about consumers, "in this case a critical group called patients". The job was about "improving the quality of patient care".

Mr Paige said he was among the 8 per cent of the population who have private health insurance – Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, does not – and intended to continue to pay for it personally.

He hoped people would not see that undermining his commitment to the health service. "It is not an unusual feature in the world these days, and I do have a commitment to the NHS," he said. His granddaughter had been born recently in a health service hospital.

He said his past career, which included posts in personnel management with the Boots Pure Drug Company, did not provide his with a detailed knowledge of the health service but he believed he could bring management skills into the job to improve the effectiveness with which the £13.5 billion spent on the health service in England is used.

Mr Paige

Greenham shooting policy disclosed

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

The detailed rules for armed servicemen setting out when they can open fire against intruders at highly sensitive installations have been disclosed for the first time.

There was a political furor in November last year when Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, refused to give an assurance that protesters breaking into a nuclear installation such as RAF Greenham Common, where cruise missiles are based, would not be shot.

The Ministry of Defence has always refused to discuss the matter but yesterday the "rules of engagement", which are issued, printed on a pink card, to armed guards, were disclosed in the *New Statesan*.

The card is headed: "Rules of engagement for issue on mobilization to servicemen authorized to carry arms and ammunition in the United Kingdom. (It may also be issued in peacetime to those guarding designated vital premises, property and installations)."

The rules say that firearms may be used only as a last resort, and only after challenging an intruder.

Also, outside Scotland where the law is different, an intruder may be shot while running away if he has already killed or injured someone and there is no other way of making an arrest.

But there is also a special rule – believed to apply specifically to nuclear stores – which operates "only when you have been told by your superior that it applies to a specific property or installation which your are guarding."

This says that a guard may open fire if an intruder "attempts to take possession of that property or installation or to damage or destroy it; and there is no other way of preventing this."

Mgr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said it was "shocking to learn that unarmed civilians who are trespassing, even if they are presenting no threat to nuclear weapons, can be shot in the back by British troop."

Police rule out tighter royal security

By Michael Horsnell

Senior police officers decided yesterday against tightening security around Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Clarence House after the arrest of a young employee for alleged possession of an offensive weapon.

Mr Boland was arrested in the early hours of Wednesday by a patrolling constable in Page Street, Westminster, about a mile from the royal residence.

He has been released on bail and is to appear at Horseferry Road magistrates' court on January 3 charged with allegedly possessing an offensive weapon, a knife.

All eyes on Mr Arthur Scargill as he takes a break from the trial.

Scargill claims arrest a plot

From Peter Davenport
Rotherham

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, claimed in court yesterday that there had been a deliberate plot to arrest him during mass picketing at the Orgreave coking plant in the early months of the miners' strike.

He also disagreed with the evidence of a senior police officer about events leading to his arrest, on the day after violent confrontations at the works had left 40 policemen and 29 pickets injured. The officer was "certainly not telling the truth", he said.

Mr Scargill was appearing before a stipendiary magistrate at Rotherham, south Yorkshire. He was charged with obstructing the highway near the Orgreave plant on May 30 this year, and with obstructing Chief Supt John Nesbitt in the execution of his duty. He pleaded not guilty to both charges.

The case was adjouned after the court had been told that an unnamed witness had contacted the defence yesterday morning and wished to give evidence on behalf of Mr Scargill, but could not be in court until today.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Scargill was arrested after ignoring police instructions to move on, while walking at the head of a column of between 70 and 100 striking miners and supporters heading for the works entrance.



Chief Supt. John Nesbitt: evidence on arrest

Mr Scargill's allegation about the previous plot to arrest him came during cross-examination by Mr Roger Keen, for the prosecution. He said that he had been on the picket line on four days before his arrest and had complied with police instructions about where he should stand.

A 35-second video film from a BBC news report of Mr Scargill's arrest was played over three television sets, on at least five occasions. It showed Mr Scargill, carrying a loud hailer and wearing a blue baseball-style cap at the head of a column of men walking on the pavement towards the coking plant.

Then Chief Supt Nesbitt was seen approaching Mr Scargill and asking him to keep moving. The NUM president was heard to reply: "No way." Within 20 seconds Chief Supt Nesbitt had ordered his arrest.

Chief Supt Nesbitt said that he first approached Mr Scargill at 7.30am and said: "Gentlemen, please don't obstruct the footpath. Keep moving. My officers will escort you to a grassed area below the works entrance".

He heard Mr Scargill then say: "Lads, we are staying on the footpath. He can't tell us where to go". Mr Scargill said that the conversation had never taken place.

The case continues today.

● Mr Malcolm Pitt, the Kent NUM president, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £25 costs for obstructing a police officer on a picket line at Tilmanstone Colliery, near Deal, on September 3.

● The NCB revealed yesterday that it had received more than 2,500 applications for 235 new vacancies at 16 pits in the western region.

● Coal board experts are confident they have brought under control and underground fire threatening a £1million development at Rossington colliery.

● Coal production stopped at Manton Colliery near Worksop, yesterday – just 24 hours after it became the first pit in the Yorkshire area to produce coal.

Man set to marry his mother in law

The House of Lords last night gave its blessing to the wedding of Mr Alan Monk, aged 29, a van driver, who wants to marry his mother-in-law.

Mr Monk, who lives with Mrs Valerie Hill, aged 48, his former wife's mother, in Ashford, Kent, said he was "jubilant and relieved" after peers gave his personal Marriage Enabling Bill a second reading.

Although the Bill has passed its first hurdle, the couple must wait until a Lords committee and MPs have also given permission for the marriage.

Under common law, a special act of Parliament is needed before Mr Monk can marry Mrs Hill at a register office ceremony. His former marriage ended in divorce.

Mother and children die

A woman and her two children were found dead in a car at their home at Cranfield, near Bedford.

The bodies of Mrs Irene Austin, aged 34, Matthew, aged eight, and Deborah, age six, were found when a milkman broke into a garage when he heard the car engine running.

Football club fraud inquiry

Essex police confirmed yesterday that they arrested Mr Keith Holmes, secretary of Southend United football club, in connection with fraud squad inquiries into the Southend supporters' Christmas club. No charges have been preferred and Mr Holmes has been released on police bail until February.

The football club has agreed that it borrowed money and could not then pay it back in time. It is believed about £70,000 is missing.

More British films promised

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday said 10 new British-made feature films will be produced each year with backing from the National Film Finance Corporation's as yet unnamed successor.

He also held out the long-term hope that the public may be able to buy shares in the body, which will have an annual £3 million budget.

Cheaper flights experiment

Britain and West Germany yesterday announced a two-year experiment which will cut the cost of flying between the two countries by a few pounds.

The Department of Transport said British and German airlines will be free to operate services between the UK and any point in West Germany, and airlines will be able to combine services to make a service viable.

Freeze on postal charges

Postal charges will be frozen until September, the Post Office announced yesterday. The news came as it revealed a £40m pre-tax profit on the six months from April to September.

The profits are £1 million more than the same period last year and reflect a big increase in letter traffic for the third year running.

3 months' jail for Celtic fan

A Celtic fan who punched the goalkeeper of Rapid Vienna, Herbert Feurer was sentenced yesterday to three months imprisonment by magistrates at Manchester.

John Tobin, aged 31 and unemployed, of Treeforest Road, Coventry, who pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour, had run on to the pitch, swung a punch at the goalkeeper and shouted: "I am going to kill you."

Match follow up, page 28

M40 route announced

New road dispute looms

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

The M40 is to be extended through almost 50 miles of prime countryside between Oxford and Birmingham at a cost of £200 million. There remains doubt about the route of the most environmentally-sensitive section.

All but 11 miles south of Warwick will be built on the route chosen by ministers in 1981. But they have postponed a decision about the southernmost section, near Oxford.

Their 1981 choice slices between the butterfly haunts at Drunkard's Corner and Polcat End and across the flat farmland of Otmoor. It also crosses a field which Friends of the Earth has sold in tiny patches to buyers the world over in the hope of thwarting the plan.

Otmoor gave Lewis Carroll inspiration for the outdoor chessboard which Alice crosses in *Through the Looking Glass*. But there could be environmental opposition to one alternative eastern route, which passes near a historic duck decoy owned by the National Trust.

The postponement of the decision sets the stage for a battle between two Conservatives-led county councils.

Oxfordshire opposed the Otmoor route as strongly as Buckinghamshire rejects the alternative near the duck decoy. But ministers made clear yesterday that argument about nature reserves and beauty spots would not halt the building.

Even if a second inquiry has to be held, construction will start in 1987. Most of the road will follow the 1981 route, starting near Warwick, passing west of Banbury and joining the present M40 east of Oxford.

The new road is intended to relieve the southernmost sections of the M1 from London and to provide a better cross-country route between the Channel ports and the Midlands.

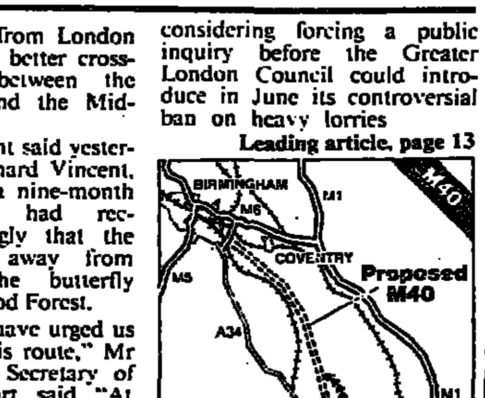
The Government said yesterday that Mr Leonard Vincent, the inspector at a nine-month public inquiry, had recommended strongly that the road be built away from Otmoor and the butterfly reserve of Bernwood Forest.

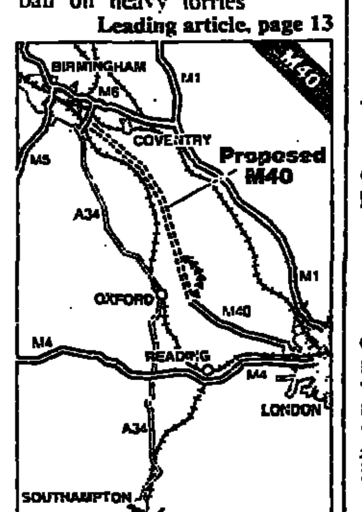
"Many people have urged us to get on with this route," Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said. "At long last the justification for this link in the national road network has been established."

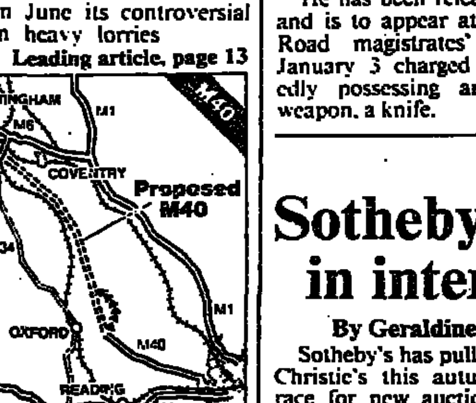
Mr Fionn Holford-Walker, secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "A second motorway between London and Birmingham is unjustified."

● Road hauliers and industrialists welcomed the news yesterday that Mr Ridley was considering forcing a public inquiry before the Greater London Council could introduce in June its controversial ban on heavy lorries

Leading article, page 13







Third M25 tunnel urged

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Fresh warnings of big traffic jams at the Dartford Tunnel by 1990 came yesterday from Kent and Essex county councils, who administer jointly the twin tunnels under the Thames.

The counties urged the Government to take over the link, which is now part of London's M25 orbital motorway, and to start work quickly on a *third tunnel*. *Without it*, they said, there would be long delays for motorists on the M25 within five years.

"Our concern is that unless the government take urgent action for a new tunnel there will be major hold-ups by the end of the decade", Mr Robert Daniels, of Essex, and Mr Kenneth Davis, of Kent, chairman and vice-chairman of the Dartford Tunnel Joint Committee, said.

The present tunnel was already showing signs of strain, and although new toll booths should provide some relief next summer, completion of the M25 in 1986 would mean extra vehicles having to squeeze through a two-lane tunnel from the mainly three-lane motorway.

The nine people who died in the M25 crash near Limpsfield, Surrey, were named yesterday afternoon.

They were: Mr Gary Chillard, aged 29, from Gillingham, Kent; Mr Steven Bean, aged 20, from Ashford, Kent; Mr William McRae, aged 24 to 25, from Southend, Essex; Mr John Everard, aged 56, from Hedon, Hull; Mrs Ingrid Long, in her 50s, and Mr Victor Bentley, from Snodland, Kent; Mr Michael George, aged 36, from Kingswood, Sutton Valance, Maidstone, Kent; Mr Philip Woolley, aged 25, from Rye, Sussex; and Mr Stephen Arnold, aged 20, from Swanley, Kent.

Sale room

Sotheby's leads Christie's in international market

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's has pulled ahead of Christie's this autumn in the race for new auction business with a 43 per cent increase in international trunover to £202 million. Christie's has reached £151 million, a 20 per cent increase.

The figures are considered to reflect the uncertain period Sotheby's went through around the period when Mr A. Alfred Taubman bought the company in 1983. Vendors, frightened of Sotheby's troubles, dealt with Christie's and Christie's recorded 50 per cent rise in autumn turnover.

Not only do vendors now have confidence in Sotheby's again, but Mr Taubman is making Sotheby's "fashionable" among America's rich socialities. The US is rich in art and rapidly spawning new collectors.

The strength of the dollar has been an important feature this autumn. Turnover at Christie's is almost unchanged from 1983 and Sotheby's is only 20 per cent or so up.

The dynamism has been concentrated, at both houses, at the top of the market.

£367,000 for manuscript

At Christie's in London yesterday H. P. Kraus, of New York, spent £367,000 (estimate £90,000-£120,000) for two illuminated leaves from an Anglo-Saxon manuscript.

They come from a Gospel Lectionary thought to have been written and illustrated in Canterbury around AD1000. They are possibly the last Anglo-Saxon illustrations available on the market.

At Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday, the manuscript of the last song composed by Richard Strauss, unpublished and hitherto, found a buyer at $60,500 or £48,400. The song, entitled "Malven", was written as a gift for the Czech opera singer, Maria Jeritza in Montreux in November 1948 and was bought by a private collector.

In London, Christie's underlined that the new interest in Old Master drawings. The collection of Mrs Donald S. Stralem, devoted to the prettiest eighteenth century French and Italian drawings, and sent from America for sale, made £647,700

Teacher in drugs trial 'a menace'

A teacher accused of supplying drugs to young people was "a menace to every teenager who comes under his influence", prosecuting counsel said yesterday.

Mr David Bate told a jury that Richard Catherwood was "prepared to sell drugs bringing misery and death." Mr Catherwood, aged 39, has denied six charges, including supplying and offering to supply LSD, cocaine and cannabis resin.

Mr Catherwood's previous drug convictions, read out as the Inner London Crown Court, showed that he was "a leopard that has not changed his spots," Mr Bate said.

Mr Catherwood, a teacher in Southwark since 1979, has pleaded guilty to three charges of supplying cannabis resin and unlawfully possessing LSD and cannabis.

The court had been told that Lee Sawyer, aged 16, fell to his death from a high rise block of flats in East Dulwhich and was found to have taken LSD shortly before the incident. It was alleged that Mr Catherwood supplied that drug.

Mr Catherwood had integrity as a teacher

The trial was adjourned until today.

Jobcentre cuts to go ahead

The Manpower Services Commission will go ahead with plans th shed nearly 1,000 Jobcentre staff, in despite of strong opposition from the Trades Union Congress.

The plans will mean about a third of the 990 Jobcentres closing over the next three years, with up to 500 new "jobshops" opening in libraries and shopping centres.

Another 450 posts will go as the commission spends an extra £1 million on new computers in smaller offices, to enable job-seekers to trace vacancies anywhere in the country.

The TUC representatives on commission said they feared the change would mean a reduced personal service for long-term and disabled unemployed people.

The commission deferred until next month cconsidering proposals on replacing 30 Skillcentres with mobile units.

Bandage to speed cures

A new way of dressing wounds could save the National Health Service millions of pounds a year by reducing the need for attention and speeding the healing process. Dr Christopher Lawrence, director of the Medical Research Council's burns research group at Birmingham Accident Hospital claimed yesterday.

The new dressing, developed in the United States keeps the wund moist instead of letting the air in.

Dr Wynn Weston-Davies, medical director of Squibb Surgicare, who are marketing the dressing in Britain told a Press conference that trials in Darlington with 180 patients showed 76 per cent of ulcers healed within 50 days.

It was claimed that 60 per cent of chronic ulcers could be cured by the treatment. One study showed that an ulcer could be cured with six weekly dressings costing £1.30 each compared with the £1,200 a year it now costs to treat chronic ulcer.

The Times 'to build on Bicentenary base'

Next year's Bicentenary of *The Times* would provide a very good opportunity to build an even more solid base for the newspaper over the next 200 years, Mr Duke Hussey, director of Times Newspapers said yesterday. He was confident that as a result the circulation would exceed 500,000 copies a day for the first time in its history.

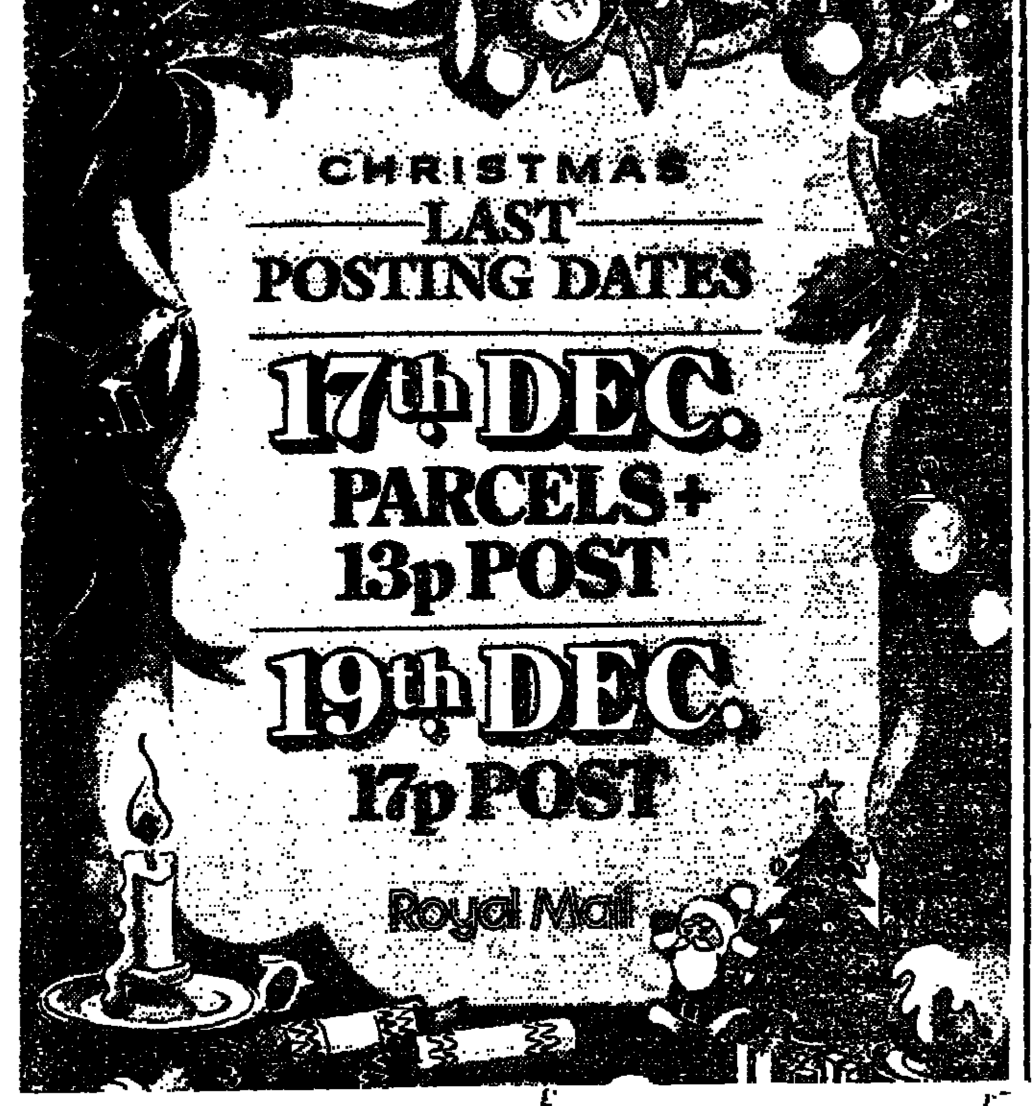
Mr Hussey was speaking at a press conference to announce plans to celebrate the Bicentenary.

Responding to journalists who questioned the editorial policy and coverage of *The Times*, Mr Charles Douglas-Home, the editor, dismissed the view that the paper was more pro-Government than it had been under previous proprietors. While he hoped the editorial policy of *The Times* had become clearer in its opinions under his editorship, the paper continued to espouse policies it thought were right for the country.

Sometimes it thought the Government of Mrs Margaret Thatcher got it right and sometimes that it was wrong. "We never hesitate to publish news that might be damaging to the Government," he added, citing the exclusive statement from Miss Sara Keays that had led to the immediate resignation from the Government of Mr Cecil Parkinson.

Asked whether he considered *The Times* still to be a "paper of record", Mr Douglas-Home said this depended on what was meant by the phrase. The news coverage of *The Times* was still as extensive as it had been during the 1970s but it was no longer the parish magazine of the British establishment.

"We think we fulfil the definition by providing a record of the world around us",



Beatles could get millions in underpaid royalties after court win over EMI

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Beatles yesterday won their High Court dispute with EMI and may now be due up to £4 million in underpaid royalties and accumulated interest from some of their earliest songs.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson granted, with the consent of EMI Records, an application from the Beatle's company, Apple Corps, that accountants should examine how much the group was underpaid on the earnings of songs, including *Hey Jude, Yesterday, Help,* and *Yellow Submarine.*

Accountants for the group had claimed that the underpayment could be as much as £2,318,946, but precise details have to be worked out. With interest accrued over two decades, it is estimated the figure could double.

A spokesman for Apple said yesterday: "We are talking of many millions".

The judge said the EMI, whose proud boast was of being the greatest recording organization in the world, had now accepted that many matters needed investigation.

For many people, he said, the 1960s was the decade of the Beatles. "Their songs were, and still are, enjoyed the world over".

In June 1962, when they signed their first recording agreement with Parlaphone, a subsidiary of EMI, they were at the start to their meteoric rise to fame, and the royalty rate of one old penny per track reflected their intitial obscurity. Later agreements had been more generous but in 1980, accountants appointed to audit the royalties reported £2.3 million underpaid.

Apple Corps is owned by the three surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, and Yoko Ono, the widow of John Lennon.

The case was begun in the High Court three weeks ago, less than two months after Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono reached an out-of-court settlement with another of their previous companies, Northern Records, now owned by Australian businessman Mr Robert Holmes a'Court. Better royalties and a payment of between £1 million and £2 million is thought to have been involved.

The dispute with Northern Records, which led to speculation that Mr Holmes a'Court might sell the company, had lasted 15 years. The group's quarrel with EMI goes back six years, but Apple lawyers said yesterday that there was still a substantial amount of work to be done before final sums could be agreed.

Electric car 'could travel at 80mph'

A British electric car with a range and top speed said to be "far in excess of anything yet seen" is being developed with backing from five motor component manufacturers (Clifford Webb writes).

The prototype could be on the road within three months and, according to its designer, Mr Joe Schwarzkopf-Bowers, it will have a range of 140 miles between battery charges and a top speed of 80mph.

Mr Schwarzkopf-Bowers, aged 37, earns his living as a computer analyst. But such is his reputation and achievement with earlier electric cars built in the garage of his home at Watford that some of the biggest names in the component industry will reveal their sponsorship of his latest project on January 4.

Yesterday he said: "I started by converting a Mini to battery power and then followed it up with a Triumph Herald. Now I want to convert a glass-fibre bodied car which will be much lighter, and give a far better power-to-weight ratio."

The five sponsors are Unipart, the BL spares and accessories subsidiary, Uniroyal Tyres, Berger Paints, Varta Batteries, and H.B. Switchgear.



Mr Schwarzkopf-Bowers with the Bond Equipe car the shell of which he will use for his new project (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Lords back ex-husband over house deal

A divorced husband whose former wife remarried two days after he signed over his share of the family home to her was entitled to have the deal called off, the House of Lords ruled in London yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously allowed an appeal by Mr David Jenkins, a swimming pool supervisor, and set aside a divorce court consent order in which he gave his £12,000 half share in Peach Tree Cottage, Higher Tremar, St Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall, to his ex-wife, Betty.

Two days after he signed over his share on September 22, 1982, she married Mr Thomas Livesey.

The Law Lords ruled that the consent order was invalid because the ex-wife failed to "make full and frank disclosure" of material facts.

Lord Brandon of Oakbrook said an important part of the deal was that she would give up any other claims for financial provision for herself.

But under the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, on remarriage a wife would lose all entitlement to financial provision from her ex-husband.

If Mr Jenkins or his solicitors had been told that his ex-wife intended to remarry, he would not have agreed to transfer his share of their home.

Lord Brandon warned divorced partners against trying to get orders set aside because of failure to disclose "minor matters." Such applications would be likely to fail and result in a bill for costs.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said a former wife would be "naturally reticent" about any plan to remarry.

He added that consent orders which effected a "clean break" between former spouses should not be set aside without powerful reasons.

Lord Scarman, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Bridge of Harwich agreed.

Wider publication of programmes urged

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC and ITV companies are unfairly restricting competiton by limiting programme information to their own magazines, *TV Times* and *Radio Times*, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) said yesterday.

After a nine-month investigation into the restrictions the two networks place on other publications carrying programme details, the OFT supported independent publishers who have been critical of the existing "duopoly" on television information.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading said, after the publication of the report, that he will refer both cases to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for consideration of the public interest issues involved unless the BBC and ITV give acceptable undertakings before February 6.

The report's findings were rejected by both ITV and the BBC, though neither side ruled out the question of a compromise before the deadline.

But the report was welcomed by Mr Tony Elliott, the proprietor of the magazine, *Time Out*, which has spent £75,000 on an unsuccessful legal action against the networks' refusal to make programme details more widely available.

He said: "We will be responsible and wait for the outcome before we print full programme details, but we're not prepared to wait 10 years."

The joint annual advertising revenues of the two publications was £95m in 1973.

The BBC said profits from *Radio Times* are ploughed back into programme making.

TV Times and *Radio Times* circulation January–June

	TV Times	*Radio Times*
1979	3,648,655	3,679,649
1980	3,322,568	3,602,155
1981	3,254,277	3,545,763
1982	3,214,410	3,410,698
1983	3,288,228	3,373,881
1984	3,107,775	3,212,806

The next largest circulating magazines in Britain are *Woman's Weekly* (1.4 million), and *Woman's Own* (1.2 million) and *Woman* (1.2 million).

'Sexist bias' in schools geography

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Changes in the teaching of geography to counteract what is seen as a sexist bias in textbooks is proposed in a report from the Inner London Education Authority's geography teachers' centre.

It says, for example, that pupils should be taught about how women in Third World countries hoe the fields and collect water. At present the emphasis is almost exclusively on the economic role of men, it says, with most textbook pictures depicting men sitting on tractors and taking all the decisions. If women are portrayed, they are shown in domestic or passive roles.

The report, prepared by a group of 18 teachers, 10 women and eight men, has the formal backing of ILEA's equal opportunities sub-committee.

Changing the geography syllabus would encourage more girls to study geography, the teachers said. Although girls usually achieve higher grades than boys in geography at O level and CSE, significantly fewer girls opt for the subject.

● Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is being urged to introduce grants for sixth-formers as part of his review of student loans.

In a letter to Sir Keith, made public today, Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman, also calls on the Secretary of State to publish Department of Education and Science papers from previous departmental examinations of the feasibility of student loans.

Mr Radice proposes that the review should seek to give young people much greater financial independence

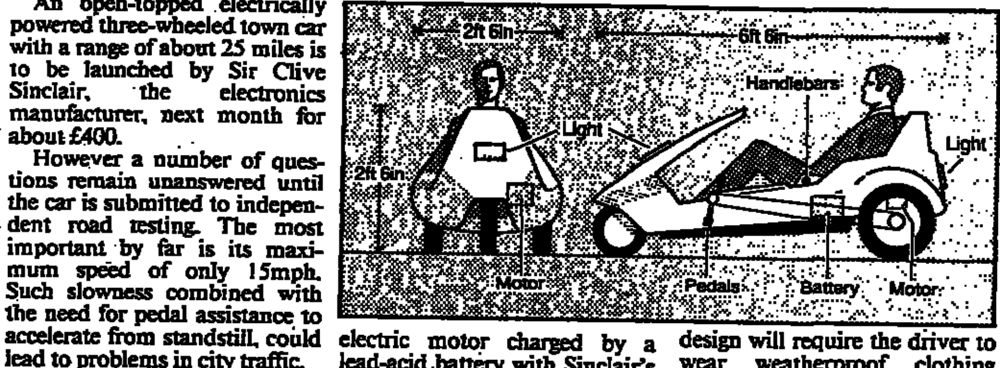
● Four out of five of children given places under the Governments's Assisted Places Scheme, which sends bright children from poorer families to fee-paying schools at the taxpayers's expence, have won places at university or polytechnic.

Figures published today by the Independent Schools Information Service show that of the 558 state-aided sixth-form leavers last year, 335, or 60.4 per cent, went to university and a further 109, or 19.5 per cent, to polytechnic and other degree courses.

Battery-powered town car to cost £400

An open-topped electrically powered three-wheeled town car with a range of about 25 miles is to be launched by Sir Clive Sinclair, the electronics manufacturer, next month for about £400.

However a number of questions remain unanswered until the car is submitted to independent road testing. The most important by far is its maximum speed of only 15mph. Such slowness combined with the need for pedal assistance to accelerate from standstill, could lead to problems in city traffic.



The car is powered by an electric motor charged by a lead-acid battery with Sinclair's modifications. Its open-top design will require the driver to wear weatherproof clothing although a crash helmet does not have to be worn under existing legislation.

The car has been designed to conform to legislation which will allow anyone over 14 years old to drive it on a public road. It is the result of two years' research and an investment of £10 million

It is steered by a handlebar mechanism which runs underneath the driver's thighs

The car, which has been tested at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory at Crowthorne has a number of novel features which give it the appearance of a toy.

Best friends: Mr Frank Mattingley shows his affection for his Welsh border collie, Tipper, who yesterday received an award from the National Canine Defence League for saving his life.

Mr Mattingley, aged 68, of West End, Southampton, collapsed earlier this year, seriously ill. Before losing conciousness he whispered Tipper's name. Doctors, believed it to be a last request to see a relative, told Mr Mattingley's family, who brought the dog to the City general hospital.

As the dog waited outside the ward, it began to howl. Mr Mattingley was revived from his coma, and began to recover.

"I am convinced I would not be here today if it was not for "Tipper", Mr Mattingley said yesterday.

Co-ops break pact and sell cheap EEC butter early

Eight Cooperative societies, have decided to break a "gentlemen's agreement" with the Ministry of Agriculture and put cut-price EEC butter on sale before Christmas.

The butter is from a 39,200-tonne allocation to Britain as part of an EEC attempt to reduce the huge surplus stocks held in storage.

The agreement was that the butter would not be made available to the public until mid-January, when trade is invariably slack, but the societies, representing the North Eastern, North West, Ipswich, Colchester, Chelmsford, Greater Nottingham, Portsea Island (Portsmouth) and Greater Peterborough areas, decided to preempt the agreed period

Permanent subsidy for London Zoo

London Zoo is to receive a permanent subsidy, the Government announced yesterday. Initial grants will total up to £5.75 million over the next three years with later levels of support to be reviewed.

The announcement, in a Parliamentary reply by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, ends a four-year struggle by the Zoological Society of London, which runs the zoos at Regent's Park and Whipsnade, to win the financial security that its counterparts elsewhere take for granted.

Since 1982, emergency grants from the Government to the society have totalled almost £3 million. Last year, the Government agreed to cover annual operating deficits of up to £2 million until 1986.

Plea to spare novelist 'agony' of murder trial

A jury at the Central Criminal Court was asked yesterday to release the novelist Mrs Helen Charlotte Hough, from the "agony" of a murder trial.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence, urged the jury to find her guilty of assisting a suicide. "You may think that whatever Mrs Hough did on that tragic day was done out of compassion, unselfishness and mercy for a pitful human being".

Mrs Hough, aged 59, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, north London, has pleaded not guilty of murdering Miss Anita Harding, aged 84, of Fitzroy Road, Camden, north London, on November 4.

Mrs Hough was not called to give evidence.

The case continues today.

Eccentric turns the clock forward

By Tony Samstag

Time stood still in clubland yesterday as the 94-year-old Eccentric Club of St James's, London, prepared to haul itself by its Edwardian bootstraps into the late twentieth century.

At 1.16pm precisely Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, the newly-elected president, ceremonially lauched a £2 million refurbishment scheme, which will close the club for almost a year, by stopping the pendulum of the famously eccentric clock that has graced the club's bar since its early days.

The clock runs backwards, symbolizing an ambience in which the passage of time is irrelevant. Reality, however, is something else entirely, and the Eccentric Club has suffered with many of its fellows a declining membership and deteriorating services.

As recently as the Fifties it was still considered one of London's wealthier clubs, known for raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for various charities; today its membership (though it includes the Prince of Wales) is barely 800, and it is no longer worthwhile opening the magnificent old dining room in the evening.

When the clock is restarted late next year, the club (renamed "The Eccentric Club, St James's" will boast new facilities including a video conference room, 21 new bedrooms (with baths for the first time), and a light buffet open most of the time.

Membership, will include women, and generally will be open to "a broad cross-section of society", a far cry from the theatrical rogues who founded the club and fined each other 25 guineas for entering the bar in coat and hat.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 13 1984 Lawson statement ● Tax thresholds ● Chief Whip back

Rumour scotched: no need to retire early

PENSIONS

There is no reason for anyone to retire early because of rumours of changes in the taxation of lump sum payments in lieu of pension, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated during question time.

He expressed concern about reports that some people might be contemplating premature retirement on the basis of rumours about the tax treatment of pension lump sums. There were cheers when he added that the Government would not propose and the House would not accept retrospective legislation on that account.

Pressed to go further, Mr Lawson refused to give any indication of what proposals might be in his next Budget about pensions.

When Mr Gary Waller (Keighley, C) asked whether the Chancellor had any plans to change the tax treatment of contributions to occupational pension funds, Mr Lawson replied: I am well aware of the speculation on this subject, which did not emanate from Treasury ministers. It has not been the practice of any Chancellor to comment on pre-Budget speculation.

Mr Waller: Those who wish to make a provision for their retirement should not be deterred from doing so and it is important for those in work to plan ahead with reasonable certainty.

Mr Lawson said he could neither confirm nor deny rumours about the content of my budget, and then made his comments that there was no reason for anyone to retire early on account of rumours.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab): That will give some encouragement to people making decisions contrary to the way he intends to pursue in legislation.

The task of the tax reformer is difficult. If he gets it wrong he is in difficulty and even if he gets it right, the benefit will only accrue to his successor. Mr Lawson is unlikely to get this one right.

Mr Lawson: There is a kernel of truth in that. The way and the task of the tax reformer is indeed a difficult one.

Sir William Clark (Croydon, South, C): The Chancellor's statement will be welcomed, on these benches at least, but if there is any change in tax arrangements on pension funds and the pension promised is to be maintained, contributions to that fund must inevitably increase.

If there were an increase in contributions it would add to the unit cost of labour, which is contrary to Conservative policy.

Mr Lawson: I have, of course, noted carefully what he said, but Sir William Clark will understand, as an experienced MP, particularly in financial and budgetary matters, that it is impossible for a Chancellor to confirm, deny or comment in any way upon rumours of what might or might not be in the Budget.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L): Liberals agree with the welcome given to what the Chancellor said and I think he has gone as far as he can. If I am asked by my local police whether they should retire early, can I quote Chancellor's answer that they should not?

Mr Lawson: Yes.

Mr Peter Tapsell (East Lindsey, C): I recall that when some of us first entered public life, it was one prime aim of the Conservative Party to ensure that as many as possible in the years ahead would come to enjoy two pensions-one from the state and one occupational pension. There has been an enormous improvement in that respect in the past 25 years and will the Chancellor be careful to take no steps to reverse that trend?

Mr Lawson: I do not do so on every occasion, but on this occasion I entirely agree with him. I want to see a further extension of private occupational pensions.

That is one reason why it is the policy of the Government and why Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has put forward proposals for personal portable pensions.

Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, North, Lab): When he says that there will be no retrospective legislation on this, is he saying that those currently on occupational schemes would not have to change, or that any proposals would not go back before the coming budget?

Mr Lawson: Mr Hughes should study *Hansard* tomorrow and see precisely what I said. (Interruption).

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): May I press the Chancellor to go a little further? As the tax-free lump sum in pension schemes is frequently seen as a nest egg by millions of people and plans are made well in advance for what an individual will do with it, he will relieve more anxiety if, in addition, he is able to say that any change in the tax situation would only apply to membership of pension schemes which begins after the presentation of the budget.

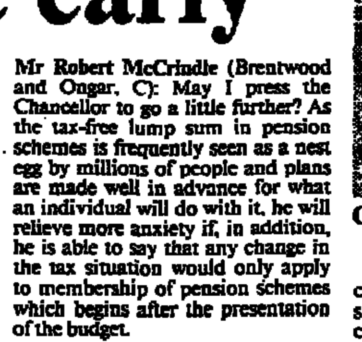
Mr Lawson: I have noted carefully what Mr McCrindle said. I am grateful for the words of welcome with which he began his question. (Laughter)

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, PLC): There is every reason to say categorically that such a scheme is not going to come forward.

Mr Lawson: Many would welcome categoric assurances about a number of matters in advance of the Budget, but for reasons which are well known and well hallowed, I shall not be making such statements.

There was a problem in this case, where people might take early retirement on the basis of expectation of retrospective legislation which was wholly false. That was why I made that statement, which I think was important to a large number of people in the private sector and public services.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): I welcome his condemnation of retrospective legislation, but it would also be retrospective if


Clark: 'Costs would be raised'

changes were made on future lump sum pensions which result from contributions made in the past.

Mr Lawson: I am not quite sure precisely what point Mr Higgins makes but I think the answer is "Yes".

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: I note his carefully prepared answer in which he promised no retrospection. What has caused uncertainty, particularly in the public service and early retirement is not fear of retrospection, but that it will be applied in the period after the Budget. It would be appropriate to end the uncertainty now or otherwise see damage by early retirement going on.

Mr Lawson: As usual, he does not understand. A number of people were concerned that if they retired after the Budget they would be disadvantaged as compared with retiring before the Budget. They were therefore seeking to retire prematurely on that account.

My assurance means that they no longer have to make that disposition.

PM wants to help 12 million on £8,000 a year or less

THRESHOLDS

The 12 million taxpayers with incomes of £8,000 a year and less had a right to look to the Government to raise tax thresholds so that they paid less taxes, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, stated to Commons exchanges. Those taxpayers would never get that benefit from the Labour Party but only from the Conservatives.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said three surveys published that day (Thurs), including one based on the Treasury's own model and one from the London Business School, previously the fount of all wisdom, proved that increases in public investment were the most effective way of reducing unemployment.

Will Mrs Thatcher respond to the call from all sides of the House (he went on) and accept that whatever additions are available to public expenditure in the spring will be used not for cutting taxes but for reducing the wholly unacceptable levels of unemployment?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not accept some of the findings of these three surveys or his description of them. There are other findings with other conclusions.

You cannot spend your way out of recession. That has been done before. It lead to higher inflation and untimately to higher unemployment.

Mr Hattersley: It should be obvious even to Mrs Thatcher that money invested directly in this country is more likely to create jobs than money to increase consumption, which by its very nature leads to higher imports and therefore damages jobs.

Her obsession with cuts in direct taxes is masked and mirrored for her reductions in that area over the last five years.

I hope that since she has chosen the high unemployment option we will be relieved from bogus compassion. The truth is that she and her party choose high unemployment – and that is the message.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Hattersley is not correct. Increasing money on infrastructure is not a cost-effective way of creating jobs. The cost per job of increasing infrastructure varies between £35,000 per job and £55,000 per job, which is expensive. There is a lot of hire of plant and not much hire of men.

A reduction in taxation can lead to extra jobs as it leads to extra demand. His thesis that investment always lead to purchases from home and reduced taxation to purchases from abroad is not correct.

Alternative to GLC rejected

A Conservative backbench attempt to retain a directly elected authority for London after abolition of the Greater London Council failed in the early hours of today (Thursday) by 23 votes.

The amendment to the Local Government Bill signed by 10 Conservative MPs that the GLC should be replaced by a directly elected authority representing the area presently administered by the GLC, was rejected by 233 votes to 210 – Government majority, 23.

Wakeham warmly welcomed

BRIGHTON BOMB

Mr John Wakeham, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and the Government Chief Whip, who suffered serious injuries in the Brighton bomb blast, returned to the Commons on crutches during Treasury questions to a rapturous welcome from a packed chamber.

All the Conservative MPs immediately stood up, cheered and waved order papers as he came through the doors. The majority of Labour and other Opposition MPs got to their feet as Mr Wakeham moved slowly to his customary place at the end of the Government front bench.

His entrance brought a temporary halt to the normal cut and thrust of question time. Before he came in Mr Roger King (Birmingham Northfield, C) was berating the Government about the effect on low-income families of the possible imposition of VAT on children's shoes.

After Mr Wakeham had taken his seat Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State, Treasury, rose and said the whole House had shown him, particularly from the Conservative benches, how good it was to see him in his place during Treasury questions. Then he admitted he had forgotten Mr King's question.

When the laughter had subsided the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he had also forgotten it – and moved on to the next question.

Later, Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on treasury and economic affairs, welcomed Mr Wakeham. His presence (he said) personified the triumph of democracy over terrorism. (cheers).

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, welcomed Mr Wakeham back on behalf of the Liberal-SDP Alliance.

But he should understand (he continued amid laughter) that we do not wish him great success because we hope the rebellions we have had recently will continue apace.

Industry to bear lighter rate burden

SCOTLAND

The Government attached priority to keeping public expenditure on course but recognized the need to make adequate resources available for important services, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons when announcing public expenditure allocations and the rate support grant settlement for Scotland for 1985-86.

The flexibility in the Scottish block arrangements had again enabled him to ensure that Scotland's needs and circumstances were taken properly into account, he said. He now looked to local authorities to bring their expenditure down to the realistic guidelines they had been given.

As a result of the revaluation of property which would take effect from April 1, 1985, the share of the rating burden borne by industry would be reduced. He had therefore decided to reduce the level of industrial derating from 50 per cent to 40 per cent on that date, leaving industry as the sector gaining most from revaluation.

Revaluation would increase considerably the domestic ratepayers' share of the rate burden and he had therefore increased the domestic element of rate support grant from 1p to 5p in post-revaluation terms. That would reduce the effect of revaluation on the domestic ratepayer by half.

In his statement, Mr Younger said:

Total expenditure on the programmes within my responsibility for 1985-86 will be £7,158 million. The figure is broadly the same as that published in the 1984 public expenditure White Paper earlier this year and shows that the government remains determined to keep public expenditure within planned limits.

In allocating my total and I have continued to give priority to spending on the health service. I plan to increase cash provision for the NHS by £94 million more than the expected level of expenditure on the service this year. Of this, some £75 million will go to the health boards' hospital and community health services programme and associated centrally managed services, where cash provision will be increased by 5.5 per cent more than expected expenditure this year and 1 per cent more than the forecast level of inflation.

This should enable boards to find the resources they need for pay and price increases and for expansion of services to meet demand from demographic change.

Law and order provision will be sufficient to meet the cost of the police service with a modest increase in manpower to meet priority requirements and to allow for a further 150 prison officers by April 1, 1986.

For Housing, I have increased total net provision by £5 million over the White Paper level to £598 million. This allows for gross capital spending of £568 million when estimated capital receipts are added to net capital provision of £392 million. To ensure that new investment is not as this year, sacrificed to subsidize current expenditure, I am proposing to use my new power to limit rate fund contributions to require local authorities to reduce these contributions to £90 million.

This enables me to increase capital spending on authorities' own stock to facilitate action on problems such as dampness, condensation and defective housing.

I am also making additional resources available for tackling those problems. The combined increase in local authorities' HRA block allocations is £43 million.

The provision I have made for education takes account of the changes I announced last week on student awards and includes £2.1 million as the first element of the recently announced increased expenditure on the central institutions.

Improved academic staffing and a reinforcement of non-academic staffing and equipment resources should result in a significant increase in the output by the central institutions sector of engineering and technology graduates.

I have completed my consultations with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities about the rate support grant settlement and I shall lay before the House in due course the relevant rate support grant order.

This will provide for a total relevant expenditure figure of £3,399.3 million and aggregate Exchequer grant of £1,924 million.

Taking into account adjustments consequent upon the transfer of colleges, this is an increase of £19 million on the figure I announced in August.

The provision for relevant expenditure is (excluding loans charges and interest receipts) 5 per cent above the figure for 1984-85 and £98 million above the provision in the public expenditure White Paper.

In 1985-86 the needs element (which accounts for 87 per cent of rate support grant) will as in 1984-85 be distributed on the basis of client group assessments. Grant changes between one year and another will again be limited, but good progress will be made towards the full implementation of the client group method.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C): Can he confirm in real terms that average local government spending is far above 1979?

Mr Younger: Local authorities are spending 2 per cent more than in 1979. That gives the lie to cries of slashing cuts which simply have not happened.

Mr Barry Henderson (North East Fife, C): Some authorities seem to have no difficulty at all finding money for supporting the miners' strike.

Mr Younger: I find it quite astonishing that some authorities who have dished out that sort of money complain they have not got enough for their ordinary services.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): The increase allocated to hospital boards assumes wage increases for nurses will not be more than 3 per cent. Since it would need at least 20 per cent to get back in real terms to what they were earning 10 years ago, if there is any improvement at all in the health services it is at the expense of the people who are already grossly exploited within it.

Mr Younger: The nurses have got what they never got from the last Labour Government – a proper review body for their pay system and they are grateful for that. There are far more nurses than under the last Labour Government. The Government considers an increase of 3 per cent reasonable. If wage increases are higher, there is less money for expansion and development.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Private Member's motion on shipping industry. Motions on Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Orders and motion on Appropriation (No 3) Northern Ireland Order.

Tuesday: Estimates on industrial support.

Wednesday: Christmas adjournment motion. Consolidated Fund Bill debates on various topics.

Thursday: Debate on review by Sir George Baker of Northern Ireland emergency provisions legislation. Motion on Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 2) Order.

Friday: Christmas adjournment debates.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Enduring Power of Attorney Bill, committee. Charities Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, third reading. Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debates on role of House of Lords and on films policy.

Thursday: Motions on Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Orders and other orders.

Lower pay rises would bring jobs

TAXATION

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he was determined to find scope to reduce taxation in such a way that it would greatly increase job opportunities in future years, when he acknowledged in the Commons that there was a need to create more jobs.

He also repeated his belief that just as people could price themselves out of work so they could price themselves into work. Every reputable economist was aware of this straightforward proposition, he commented at question time.

He told MPs that each 1 per cent reduction in the rate of increase in real pay would be likely, in time, to add between 150,000 and 200,000 new jobs. This was based on evidence which he would, in due course, be publishing.

Mr Lawson said the number of people in work was estimated to have risen by about 250,000 in the year ended June 1984 and growth in employment was set to continue in 1985.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C) said that was heartening news and asked: Does he feel this rise in employment is due to the growth of new and smaller businesses which is in itself a reflection of the introduction by this Government of the policies of enterprise?

Mr Lawson: He is right. Self-employment, for example, increased by 400,000 between the middle of 1979 and the middle of last year. The recent CBI survey suggested the prospects are best in the small firms and services sectors.

The importance of small firms was marked by the substantial reduction in the small firms corporation tax in this year's Budget and I hope there will be further progress for small firms in next year's Budget.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): Many of these new jobs are part-time only and involve low skills. What is he going to do to enhance public demand so that skilled labour, on the scrapheap because of his policies, is given a chance to come back into the labour market?

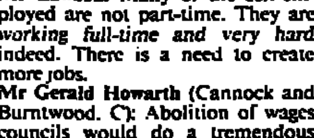
Mr Lawson: Many of the self-employed are not part-time. They are *working full-time and very hard* indeed. There is a need to create more jobs.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood, C): Abolition of wages councils would do a tremendous amount to increase employment opportunities. The electricians' union has already slashed the rate of pay for apprentices and as a result the number of apprentices has doubled.

Mr Lawson: His example is correct and it is important. The question of wages councils is clearly something the Government will have to consider very seriously indeed.

Dr Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: He has failed to convince even business economists that his policies are working since they do not believe his increase in inflation - it will be higher - or the rate of growth - it will be lower - and they say it is a depressing outlook since unemployment will continue to rise.

Mr Lawson: She always finds everything very depressing. I am not surprised, given the company she keeps. (Laughter) The CBI's forecasts are very much in line with those of the Treasury.




Browne: Reflection of policies of enterprise

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on social security board and lodgings and homeless people.

Minister could not give a clue about VAT

VAT WORRIES

A great deal of exaggeration, speculation and comment was being made about possible imposition of value-added tax on books and periodicals, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State, Treasury, said during Commons questions.

The Government had received more than 500 representations from individuals and organizations during the last two months opposing VAT on books, newspapers and periodicals. Although the Government favours a shift in the burden of taxation from tax on earnings to tax on spending (he said), we have no set views at present on how this might best be done. However, representations on this subject are being carefully considered.

He was replying to Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) who had said: Extensive damage would be done to education, libraries and the book trade generally if VAT was imposed. Much damage would also be caused, undoubtedly, to newspapers and periodicals. There is no more support for VAT to be imposed on these items than there would be if VAT were imposed by this Government on food.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Why does Mr Hayhoe not end damaging speculation and prevent a major revolt which would make yesterday's look like a tea party. (Laughter) by saying this monstrous proposal will not be considered? (Labour cheers).

Mr Hayhoe: It is a well-established and accepted principle that one should not anticipate the Budget.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): How many representations have been in favour of the proposal? Was such a tax ever contemplated in time of war, let alone in peace? There is almost unanimous hostility on both sides of the House and throughout the country.

Mr Hayhoe: I have seen the Commons motion signed by MP's on all sides of the House. Five hundred representations were received; all are opposing.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: He says he cannot anticipate the Budget, but the Prime Minister has already anticipated it by promising no VAT on new building and promising no VAT on foodstuffs. Why cannot the Budget be anticipated in this particular?

Mr Hayhoe: The Prime Minister yesterday was reiterating what she wrote to the Housebuilders Federation on July 5 and which Treasury ministers have also confirmed on many occasions.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab): There is concern that switching to indirect taxation penalizes the lowest paid and those on fixed incomes.

Any introduction of VAT on newspapers, food, gas, electricity or children's clothing and footwear would be unacceptable. Would the minister give a categorical assurance that none of these items will have VAT put on them?

Mr Hayhoe: Any reasonable commentator looking back on the Chancellor's Budget earlier this year when there was a substantial increase in income tax thresholds and a modest extension of the VAT base, would say that it was not regressive but was helpful to small income families.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C): In the light of the fact that Israel incorporate that 33 per cent of text books are bought by parents, the imposition of VAT on books would be a catastrophe for education.

Mr Hayhoe: These are also matters Mr Lawson will be taking into account in forming his Budget judgement.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): Is it possible for the EEC – to our membership of which I am no friend – to argue logically that since own resources is raised upon the basis of a percentage of VAT in the respective member states, it is a demand of equity that the base should be the same base in all our states?

Mr Hayhoe: The theoretical base on which the calculation is made is the same for all countries. Any extension of VAT does not change the amount we pay under our EEC obligations.

Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C): Many EEC countries manage to survive and prosper with a much wider range of items subject to VAT than we have.

Mr Hayhoe: That is true.

£2 billion could be spent better

A call for immediate action to increase spending on the community programme came from Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, during Prime Minister's questions.

He said Mrs Thatcher was rumoured in the press to be contemplating an increase and to be considering too, restructuring employees' the National Insurance contribution. Why should we (he asked) wait for the Budget? Many hundreds of thousands want action now. Why not action this day?

Mrs Thatcher thought Dr Owen would have known that there was a time for public spending surveys and a time for the Budget. There were many reasons when she wished they happened together so the choice to be made was put more clearly.

However, the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) and the Minister without Portfolio (Lord Young of Graffham) were seeing whether the Government could spend better the £2 billion being spent on special employment measures.

Taped interviews win police support

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Government plans to have tape recorded interviews with suspects introduced in police stations were encouraged yesterday.

Pilot trials indicate that one of the main fears expressed by police that the flow of information would be staunched, have not been borne out.

A home Office research study found no evidence that tape recording inhibits suspects from confessing or making damaging admissions.

Magistrates' clerks in Leicester have stated that of the 22 cases heard in which recordings were taken, more than 60 per cent included interview evidence backed by tapes that they regarded as of medium or high importance.

The field trials, still in their early stages, began earlier this year in six police areas: Leicester; Wirral, Merseyside; Winchester, Hampshire; South Shields / Jarrow, Northumbria; Croydon and Holborn, Metropolitan Police.

Police officers in all the field trials areas feel that the existence of the taped interview was important in helping the police decision about proceedings to be made in about 30 per cent of cases.

The preliminary findings cover police work that is vital to solving crime. In recent years, between 20 and 25 per cent of crimes cleared up by police across the country were those "taken into consideration" for sentencing purposes. That indicates police interviews are important in clearing up crime in "a substantial minority" of cases.

Research has also shown that in at least half of the cases suspects make confessions or damaging admissions during interviews. But most suspects brought into police stations are interviewed when strong evidence against them already exists.

The Home Office said yesterday that the tape recordings were in acoustically adequate rooms at police stations. Guidelines suggest that the entire interview should be tape recorded. The officer is required to write a statement

The Tape Recording of Police Interviews with Suspects: an interim report, by Carole F. Willis. Home Office Research Study No 82. (Stationery Office, £4.20).

Pressing the button, page 12

Berliners' plan to sue Army fails

Two West Berliners were thwarted in the Appeal Court yesterday in their legal battle to sue in the High Court in England over the threat of noise from a British Army firing range near their homes.

Herr Gunter Trawnik, age 64, and Frau Louise Belmelt, aged 69, who live in the British Sector, won the sympathy of Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, who said that the proposed defendants to their action, including the Attorney General, had frustrated their attempts to have their case heard.

"The inference is clear," he said. "There is a desire not to defend the claim on its merits but to ensure that there is no court which can adjudicate on the claim."

The court allowed, with costs, an appeal by the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, QC, against a High Court ruling that the West Berliners could name him, and the British Commandant in West Berlin, in their intended action seeking a declaration that the range should not be operated to cause a noise nuisance.

Law report, page 30

Portage: Mr Don Jamieson, High Commissioner for Canada dons an Eskimo canoe outside the Museum of Mankind in London yesterday. The canoe is part of an exhibition about the Eskimos which opens today (Photograph: Laura Richter).

Warning of pitfalls in pension plan

Strong criticism of the Government's plans for personal pensions came yesterday from the Consumers' Association with a warning of "serious risks" that people would make inadequate provisions for retirement and their dependents.

If the Government goes ahead, the association said, those providing the schemes should have to guarantee a minimum level of pension, a pensions ombudsman should be appointed to resolve disputes, there should be a minimum cooling-off period of three months and standardized quotations should be produced for comparison.

Methods already used to sell life insurance suggest that purchasers may be exposed to inadequate and biased advice and the Government's proposals did not dispel such fears. The association said.

If people selling plans are required to guarantee a minimum pension, contributions are likely to be high, discouraging employees from choosing such a plan rather than an occupational pension.

Television report 'one-sided'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission has upheld most of the accusations made by a Bournemouth solicitor who was featured in an *Out of Court* programme on BBC2.

Mr M A Edwards, who is also chairman of the local Conservative Association, claimed that an item about election courts was one-sided. He said it implied that his political position affected his professional judgement, and referred to a complaint against the Law Society without mentioning that it had been dismissed.

The BBC contended that the film was balanced and said that the references to Mr Edwards were factually correct.

Parties banned

Civil servants at the Export Credits Guarantee Department in Cardiff have been told that they cannot hold Christmas parties at the office. Last year potted plants were smashed, people vomited on carpets and a couple were found making love in an office.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The Government has been placed in a dilemma by the narrowness of the Commons vote against a directly elected assembly for London. Should ministers try to buy off the rebellion with a compromise now rather than risk defeat later? Or would they do better to keep going as if nothing untoward had happened?

They will not want to create the impression that insurrection pays. It must be doubtful if this week's revolt would have been so large if it had not been for last week's furore over student grants. This not only intensified Conservative backbench discontent. It also showed that backbenchers could force the Government to change course if they pressed their objections hard and long enough.

If the Government was now to give way again, this would encourage future rebellions on other issues. There is a sense in which different revolts are all strengthened by the same grievance.

The core of the protest over an assembly for London naturally comes from London MPs, who feel that Conservative popularity in their area will be jeopardized if there is no elected replacement for the Greater London Council. Indeed, there are some senior members who sympathize with the critics but who feel that it would not be right for them to vote against the Government at this stage because they do not sit for a London constituency.

Concession to critics needed

But this insurrection could not have reached such dimensions, bringing the Government majority down to a mere 23, if other members had not been prepared to join it for broader reasons. In particular, there were objections to the tendency towards over-centralization in the Bill and to the Government's failure to consult their backbenchers properly.

The second of these complaints was heard loud and strong over student grants as well, and it is bound to come up again. If it became the habit for backbenchers to force a retreat whenever unpopular measures were introduced without their prior approval, the Government would face considerable embarrassment.

Yet ministers can look forward to a pretty rough time if they offer no concession to the critics. One possible partial explanation for the closeness of this vote is that the Whips miscalculated. There was only a two-line Whip, and too many of the Bill's supporters may have been allowed the evening off. But even if that is true, the damage had been done.

The Bill's opponents have been encouraged to keep up the fight. So there will now be guerilla warfare throughout the rest of its passage through the Commons. The proposal that was narrowly rejected yesterday morning is likely to be brought up again at the report stage if no compromise has been reached in the meantime.

If it was passed, the Bill would be most unlikely to reach the statute book this session. The amendment provides for a select committee to propose what the powers of such an assembly should be, and the further progress of the Bill would presumably have to await that report. That might well take a little time.

Long fight in both Houses

If the amendment was again defeated narrowly, the Lords might then regard this as justification for giving the Commons the opportunity to think again. Perhaps the Lords might hesitate to pass such an obviously wrecking amendment: there is nowadays a tradition that the Upper House does not challenge a manifesto commitment of the governing party. But that would not necessarily rule out support for any directly-elected assembly.

There are so many crossbench Peers these days that the Government can no longer be certain of commanding a majority in the Lords. So there is the prospect of a long, hard fight for the Bill in both Houses.

What the Government now has to consider is whether such a fight is really worth it. Would too much political capital be spent in the process? Would it even be the best way to get the legislation through without emasculation?

Might a preemptive concession – a tightly circumscribed directly elected assembly or even a parliamentary forum for London, if that would buy off enough of the critics – be a shrewder means of giving the Government the substance of what it wants?

Industry back £ Europ transpo

Magistra for legal p

Dolls' house hid heroin, court told

Trinity Hous cuts in pil



Industry chiefs back £50bn European transport links

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A £50 billion scheme to revitalize Europe with a range of transnational road, tunnel and railway projects was launched in London yesterday by a group comprising some of the Continent's leading and most influential industrialists.

The group, which calls itself the Roundtable and which includes Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, claimed that travelling times in Europe could be halved by massive investment on the infrastructure and that this would give a major boost to business competitiveness.

Three specific projects are advocated: a road-rail link across the English Channel, a high-speed rail network across the Continent using available technology such as magnetic levitation, and a motorway and rail system to connect Scandinavia with the rest of Europe and including two fixed links across the Öresund and the Fehmarn belt.

The proposals, plus new or upgraded crossings into the Iberian peninsular, Italy and the Balkans, would, the group said, have wide range impacts including stimulus to European industrial technology.

Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, president of Volvo and chairman of the 22-member Roundtable, said the number of jobs created by the schemes would be "very dramatic", with the cross-Channel link alone estimated to need 100,000 workers for five years.

The Roundtable, whose members together command vast resources across Europe and collectively could exert considerable pressure on governments, includes names such as Signor Umberto Agnelli of Fiat, Sir John Clark of Plessey, Mr Kenneth Durham of Unilever, Herr Dieter Spethmann of Thyssen, M Bernard Hanon of Renault and Mr Wisse Dekker of Philips. All are chairmen, chief executives, presidents or managing directors of their companies.

Schemes advocated by the group were said to be examples of what was needed, yet the only cross-Channel link described was the Euroroute scheme being promoted by a group including Mr MacGregor, who originally supported the idea when he was chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Gyllenhammar stressed that there was no vested interest on the part of members of the group, but rather a desire to see Europe succeed in the same way as the United States or Japan. "The potential must be tapped and we are running out of time", he said.

Some of the projects could be financed largely by the private sector, the Roundtable says, but there is an urgent need for governments to create the right investment climate with harmonization of tax concessions and other fiscal incentives.

The set of proposals, which the group describes as the "Missing Links", would be most attractive financially if considered as part of "a coherent European-scale programme".

Magistrates move for legal protection

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Magistrates' Association has approached the Lord Chancellor over whether magistrates should be protected in law against civil actions and claims by victims of courtroom injustice.

Some magistrates have expressed concern to the association about their vulnerability to actions from defendants after a law lords' ruling last month.

The lords held that a Northern Ireland bench of justices was liable to a civil claim for damages because they had not informed the defendant of his right to legal aid.

Another bench is facing legal action and a claim for substantial damages for alleged wrongful imprisonment of a man over his failure to pay a maintenance order.

Section 45 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1974 gives a person who is injured by an act of a magistrate exceeding his jurisdiction the right to bring a legal action. The question in this case is over the magistrates' power to enforce a maintenance order made in a a higher court and to send the man to prison for non-payment.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of Magistrates' Association, said: "There ought to be a scheme for compensating people without the need for magistrates to be sued."

Under section 53 of the Act, magistrates could be indemnified against such actions by the local magistrates' court's committee where they had acted in good faith, he said. "But it is still not very happy for them to have to face legal action over a period of possibly several months."

Magistrates should have the same protection against being sued as judges, he said. "Justices have to deal with cases without the detailed legal argument that judges get from counsel on both sides, so they have the difficult job of acting unassisted by all that collective wisdom."

In their ruling ther law lords criticized the lack of protection for JPs and called for changes

Dolls' house hid heroin, court told

A couple used their children's dolls' house to store heroin worth thousands of pounds, Inner London Crown Court heard yesterday.

In one week alone police watched 463 callers visit Christopher and Penelope Chequer's home in Billington Road, New Cross, south London, the court heard.

The dolls' house was a gift to their three children, a boy aged 22 months and two daughters, aged 6 and 3, all of whom have been taken into care.

Christopher Chequer, aged 32, was jailed for nine years after he admitted supplying heroin. His wife was jailed for seven years after she was convicted of supplying the drug.

Bernard Hinks, aged 29, of Clarendon Rise, Lewisham, described in court as a "major dealer" was jailed for nine years and Craig Bertrand, aged 23, of Harden Court, Tamar Street, Charlton, was sentenced to two years for supplying the drug.

Mr David Lowe, aged 32, a car dealer of Bowling Green Row, Woolwich, was found not guilty of supplying heroin.

Judge Shindler, QC, told the convicted: "You are a menace to society and exemplary sentences must be passed."

'Starvation' fear for homeless

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government's plans to set new limits and rules for board and lodging, payments will mean some people will be faced with "starvation or the streets", Shelter said yesterday.

The proposal to limit single people to between £50 and £70 a week for board and lodging will leave them with between £4.04 and £6.90 a night for bed and breakfast after allowing for the other meals element in the payments, the housing pressure group said.

For couples with children, if the Government goes ahead with its proposal to pay them only one-and-a-half or one-and-three-quarters of the single person's rate, the amount available for bed and breakfast a night after deducting the meals allowance could be as little as 61p per person.

The proposals "will mean overcrowding, slum conditiona – even the streets. People will have to choose between a bed and a meal – there will not be money for both".

The proposals aim to prevent young people living on "dole by the sea" and to curb an increase in spending from £277 million last year to an estimated £380 million this.

Trinity House considers cuts in pilot service

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Government proposals for the reduction of Britain's sea pilotage service have received the guarded support of Trinity House, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is Master.

A Green paper for the Department of Transport proposes that the pilotage force should be heavily cut back and controlled by port authorities rather than Trinity House.

The implication of the plan is that Trinity House, which controls about a third of the coastal pilots, including those in such areas as London and the South East, would be reduced to the role of agent for the port authorities, and then only for those who request it.

The proposals threaten the long standing autonomy of 1,400 pilots who have always been self-employed. Recently their income has been guaranteed at up to £25,000 a year, though some work only 10 hours a week. Only about 600 are thought to be needed.

To date, successive attempts to cut the pilot force as the merchant fleet shrank and with the introduction of new navigational aids, have foundered.

Trial by jury – not by media

Australian judge to face charges

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Mr Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court is to be charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and becomes the first High Court judge to face criminal charges.

The decision to charge Mr Justice Murphy, aged 62, a former federal Attorney-General under Mr Gough Whitlam's Labour Government, was announced yesterday by Mr Ian Temby QC, the federal Director of Public Prosecutions, and comes after two all-party Senate Committee inquiries into the judge's behaviour.

Mr Temby said he had decided that there was enough evidence to warrant Mr Justice Murphy's prosecution in relation to the hearing of a conspiracy charge against the Sydney solicitor, Mr Morgan Ryan.

The decision said nothing about the guilt or innocence of either Mr Ryan or Mr Justice Murphy, Mr Temby said. It was of paramount importance that the judge receive a fair trial, and as far as he could see the only thing standing in the way of that was a trial by the media.

Likewise he hoped there would be no further parliamentary proceedings or debate concerning Mr Justice Murphy until the charge had been disposed of.

The matter will be dealt with by judge and jury in the Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court. A date for the hearing has not been fixed, but it is unlikely it would be before February, unless special sittings are arranged. The ACT Supreme Court rises today and resumes on February 5.

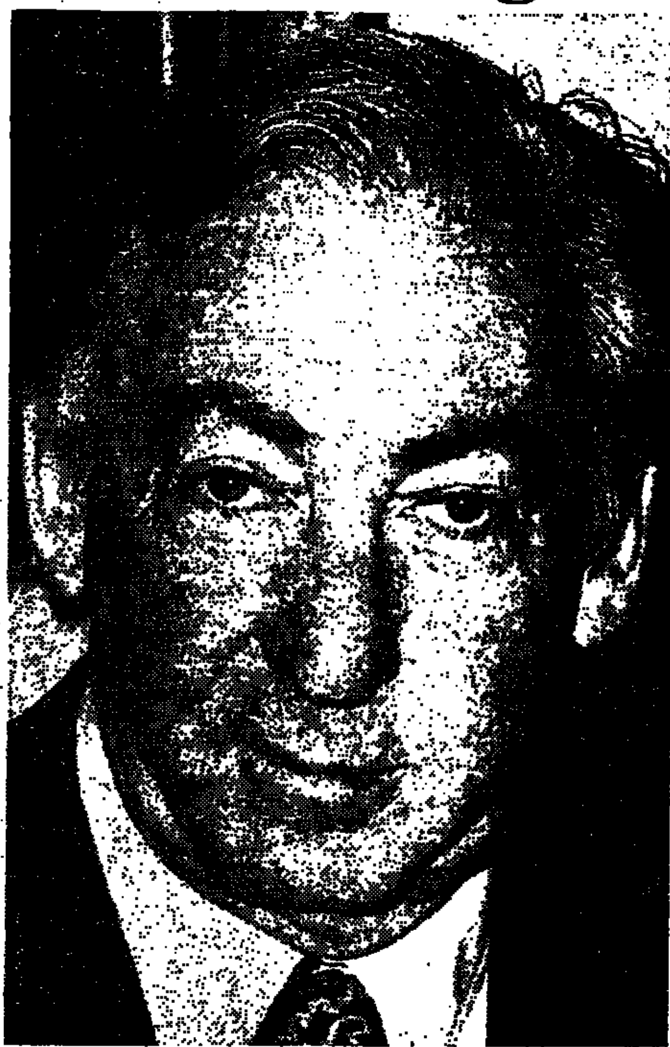
Mr Justice Murphy has been on leave from the High Court since soon after the report of the second Senate Committe was handed down at the end of October.

He made a brief statement yesterday: "I have not committed any offence. I waive my right to a committal hearing in order that the air can be cleared as quickly as possible. I welcome the fact that the allegations will be tried by judge and jury, not the media."

A majority of the second Senate Committee found that "on the balance of probabilities" Mr Justice Murphy had tried to influence the outcome of the Ryan case, which involved an alleged immigration racket. The earlier Senate inquiry had split on party lines.

● Mr Kerry Packer, head of Australian Consolidated Press, has decided to drop a proposed action for defamation against Mr Douglas Meagher, QC, counsel assisting the Costigan royal commission into organized crime in Australia.

A writ was taken out, but not delivered to Mr Meagher. It claimed damages relating to allegations that Mr Meagher was responsible for leaking summaries of the royal commission to the *National Times* news weekly.



Mr Justice Murphy: Welcomes chance to clear the air.

Mass flight of Sikhs to Punjab

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi

Nearly 100,000 Sikhs are believed to have moved in the past few days from different parts of India to the Punjab, where the Sikhs are in a majority. They form about 52 per cent of the population.

Newspapers carry a lot of advertisements, mostly from the Sikhs, offering property.

There is a growing fear among Sikhs that there may be one more round of communal disturbances before the election day – December 24 – in order to keep them away from the polling booths.

So persistent have been these rumours that the federal Home Ministry in Delhi yesterday issued a statement intended to allay the fears of the Sikhs. A ministry spokesman denied that there was widespread panic among the Sikhs.

The ministry has also directed the states and territories of India to take necessary steps to instil confidence among the minorities and ensure the safety of life and property.

Sri Lanka hits back at Rajiv

From Donovan Moldrich Colombo

The Government of Sri Lanka yesterday expressed regret and dismay over the statement by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on Sri Lanka which by its language, tone and substance "could only encourage Tamil terrorists and their supporters to pursue their nefarious activities."

A statement issued by the Foreign Minister, Mr A. C. S. Hameed, at the Cabinet's request, expressed surprise and regret that Mr Gandhi had accused Sri Lanka security forces of indiscriminate killing, and had not referred to terrorist violence which had led to the brutal killing of innocent civilians.

Mr Hameed said it was the escalation of terrorist activity which had made necessary effective measures to defend life and property.

He charged that the Indian Government had "chosen to turn a blind eye to the activities of Sri Lanka terrorists on Indian territory."

Sect's papers shut down

Islamabad – The Punjab state Government has closed a printing press owned by the Ahmedi Jamaat, a declared non-Muslim minority, and suspended four Ahmedi newspapers and journals for three months (Our Correspondent writes).

A Pakistan Government spokesman said yesterday that the publications had been printing objectionable material.

Muslim organisations have asked the Government in Islamabad to ban the Ahmedi annual conference, reported to be planned in Rabwah, the movement's headquarters, late this month. The Government had warned the rivals to refrain from creating disturbances.

Day of reckoning for the Community

Euro-MPs reject 'fake budget' as EEC power struggle looms

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament yesterday voted overwhelmingly to throw out the EEC's budget for next year. It did so on the ground that the £15,500 million in it would not be enough to cover the estimated expenditure and was thus nothing but "a fake budget". Even so the budget used up virtually every penny available to the EEC.

Only five members were prepared to accept the budget. But 319 voted to reject it while just 16 abstained. In contrast to five years ago when members cheered and threw their order papers excitedly in the air when the budget was last rejected, this time there was only a quiet ripple of applause.

Members seemed aware that they had now the fullest support for their ensuing power struggle with the Council of Ministers.

They were also aware that they were putting the new European Commission, which takes over next month, in the extremely awkward position of having to run the Community without a budget.

As a result, the running costs of the Community next year will have to be met out of the limited funds available through a system which provides only monthly amounts known in Community jargon as "provisional twelfths".

Some member states may welcome this as it will provide a psychological brake on spending, and because it will put real pressure on West Germany – the only country still holding out against increasing the legal ceiling on contributions next year.

But in the interval money earmarked for research – an area where Europe is badly behind – will be blocked. There ca be no money paid to help West German farmers adjust to the phasing out of their subsidized "green mark" rate. Help for the Spanish fishing fleet to be restructured after entering the Community is also at risk.

The pressure will grow on the budget for paying farmers, for helping the unemployed and for providing food aid. Although little or no difference may be apparent for a month or so, the whole infrastructure of the Community will increasingly be at risk.

Calculation of the provisional twelfths means that the Community is only allowed to spend an amount equivalent to what it spent last year, or equivalent to the amount in the rejected budget. The lower of the two figures is chosen. Then one-twelfth of the annual amount is automatically paid over each month.

It is possible for the monthly payment to be increased if the Commission asks for it and the Council of Ministers votes to agree to it by the necessary majority. For bills incurred to pay for items not covered by the treaties, the approval of Parliament is also required.

In rejecting the budget Parliament is entering uncharted territory. Although it threw out the 1980 budget, forcing the Community to live off "provisional twelfths" for a couple of months, there is little real comparison between then and now.

That is because five years ago the EEC had plenty of money and the Commission was able to apply for extra funds to meet the running costs, confident in the knowledge that when a budget was finally agreed there was going to be enough cash available.

But this time there is no extra money. If the Commission asks for an advance over and above the allotted twelfth, there is no way within existing Community rules for more money to be found.

There is no doubt that more money will be needed than can be made available each month. In January, the Commission knows it must find about £1,200 million to meet its obligations to farmers. Yet only £800 million is available. Assuming the Council gives permission for it to draw extra money, the day of reckoning comes that much closer.

The same applies to areas where Parliament's permission is required for an extra advance. This is most likely to be the case with food aid since the greatest need for money will occur at the start of the year before the harvest comes in.

In theory, there should be enough money to last until October or even beyond. In practice, the shoe could begin to pinch in a number of areas by early summer. Moreover, a small alliance of states could contrive a blocking vote in the Council to stop extra money being supplied, if between them they felt it was time to put extra pressure on to settle the problem.

This is where Parliament is taking a calculad gamble. It expects the Commission and Council of Ministers to go on agreeing to put up what money is needed until such time as they both come to their senses and come forward with a new budget which meets the demand of members.

But they have no proof of this. The brand-new Commission, under M Jacques Delors, which takes over in January, may not act with the predictable tameness of the old Commission.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, who leaves his job as Budget Commissioner at a time when the Community has no budget, predicted here that things would begin to be very difficult by June if the argument could not be solved. Although he did not expect the member states to be difficult at the start of the year, he could see complications building up rapidly. "The messing up potential is quite great," he said.

But Parliament was prepared to risk this. Lord Douro, the Conservative spokesman on the budget, said firmly that "this is a fake budget and the Council must not be allowed to get away with it."

M Jean-Pierre Cot, chairman of the budget committee, insisted that the Council would release the necessary money because it was needed to pay for policies which the Council itself had approved.

But as Mr Jim O'Keefe, the Irish Minister in charge of the budget council, pointed out: "There is no more money. Parliament cannot create more money just by saying it is there."

Mr Richard Cottrell, the Conservative member for Bristol, was one of the five who voted to accept the budget. "We are fighting the wrong battle, for the wrong reasons, on the wrong ground," he said. "Just like Napoleon on the way back from Moscow, the Council will pick us off group by group as the winter deepens."



Mr Tugendhat: Problems will start in June

Cheer leader: Señor González acknowledging applause at his party's first conference since coming to power.

González puts his case for Nato

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The stability of Spanish democracy was directly involved in Spain's remaining a member of the Atlantic Alliance, Señor Felipe González declared yesterday on the opening day of the Socialist Party Conference here.

Señor González recommended to delegates the option he had already announced in Parliament: that Spain should remain politically in Nato but not to join its military structure.

He sketched a scene of Spain joining Nato at the political level, as it did in 1982, then leaving in 1985 only to seek membership again should the Socialists lose power.

"Is it possible to submit Spain, and its stability internally and in its international relations, to changing situations of such magnitude?" he asked. Reflect seriously, comrades, where we wish to go as a party and as the Spanish people."

Señor González was applauded, however, when he added that the Spanish people had the sovereign choice of whether to stay in the Alliance, and that he was not threatening anyone.

Foreign policy should be based on the widest possible national consensus. Some veteran Socialists, he reminded delegates had believed that the recovery of Spanish democracy would be linked with joining the Western Alliance.

Señor González recalled in some detail the February, 1981, coup attempt, and the plot to overthrow democracy that was uncovered a month before the Socialists won the 1982 general election. He emphasized that one of his Government's main priorities had been to dispel the risk of Spain falling back into authoritarianism.

He dispatched confidently the issue of Spain's awkward wait to join the EEC. "Europe is conscious that entry is irreversible. We will complete it".

Most of his 90-minute speech was a defence of his Government's two years in office. He told the delegates they must get the message across to the country that present economic hardships were aimed at preserving and creating jobs for future prosperity, as the basis for greater social justice.

He attacked the Communists as demagogues, aligning themselves with any labour unrest when they knew Spain's resources for modernization were scarce.

Alliance to improve links with East in 1985

From Frederick Bonnart, Brussels

Nato has named 1985 as the year for improving East-West relations. But there remained real differences among alliance foreign ministers when they started a two-day meeting here yesterday, about how best to achieve their aim.

Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, had a difficult job on his hands to reassure the doubting and to reconcile the different points of view before the meeting's final communiqué is issued today.

Meanwhile, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, announced a big diplomatic offensive against the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Shultz spent well over an hour at the start of the meeting explaining what his preparations and hopes are for his planned meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Geneva on January 7 and 8. This was seen by all as the key to future progress.

He assured his colleagues that he was committed to preparing the "talks about talks" as the meeting has been called. The US was treating them extremely seriously and very open-minded, he said, even though he did not expect anything of substance to be discussed on arms control. His aim was simply to fix an agenda and working arrangements for further talks.

He also emphasized that in everything he did he would maintain the closest possible consultations with the other members of the Alliance. Behind the scenes he was working hard to try to ensure he had maximum co-operation from European allies.

Before the Nato meeting began he saw Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister, to argue that they must stick firmly to their commitment to allow medium-range nuclear weapons to be deployed in their countries.

Belgium has announced that it will only allow the 48 cruise missiles it is meant to take from next March once it has studied the result of the forthcoming Geneva talks. Holland, which is meant to deploy its 48 missiles in 1986, has yet to start preparing its base.

Mr Schultz argued with both countries that they must not give the Soviet leaders the impression that they were weakening. This, he said, would give them the impression that they could achieve what they wanted without having to give up anything themselves.

Mr Schultz was also concerned to head off West German hopes that the Geneva talks could lead on to a form of genuine détente.

The American view is that thereis no basic change at the moment in East-West attitudes and that the best that can be hoped from the talks at this stage is a halt in the nuclear arms race. The view of Sir Geoffrey was that the Russians had only agreed to come to Geneva because they were worried about being left behind in the "Star Wars" technology. There had to be absolute solidarity with the American position if further progress was to be made.

At the same time, the Foreign Secretary was convinced that arms control talks alone were not enough. There had to be other contracts, he said, and announced that he was to make two further trips next year to Warsaw Pact countries – the first to Romania and Bulgaria, and the second to East Germany and Czechoslovakia – to hold talks. These come after visits this year by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Hungary and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to Poland.

Delors says US should be less aggressive

Paris (Reuter) – Relations between West Europe and the United States are abysmal and Washington should make an effort to be less aggressive, M Jacques Delors, president-designate of the European Commission, said here.

"Relations are abysmal, given that we are friends," he told a press lunch. "If we were enemies, they would be acceptable... All that has to change."

France had suffered in the past from too much ideology. "But now ideology seems to have crossed the Atlantic... a bible in one hand and a revolver in the other – I cannot stand that," he said.

As France's Finance Minister for three years until last July, M Delors regularly criticized US economic policy for boosting the dollar and driving up interest rates, adding in turn to the Third World's debt burden.

Marcos display 'tasteless'

Manila (AP) – Cardinal Sin has accused President Marcos of "a tasteless display of exhibitionism" in baring his chest and stomach on Philippines television to show he has no surgical scars.

He said the president may have resorted to his "impromptu striptease" because Filipinos suspect their Government "has been feeding them a steady diet of half-truths and outright lies".

Boxer's brother jailed for brawl

Munich (Reuter) – Garry Cable, aged 31, brother of the British boxer, Jimmy Cable, was sentenced to 18 months' jail here for causing grievous bodily harm during the beer festival.

Cable, who was with his brother in Munich as a sparring partner, was accused of attacking a man with a beer glass and breaking another man's jaw with an uppercut. He has until the end of the week to appeal.

Priest rebuked

Stockholm. The Rev Carl-Heinrich Schmutzler, a Swedish clergyman who caused a furore when he claimed in a radio interview that the famine in Ethiopia and Hitler's persecution of the Jews were the work of God, has been "severely reprimanded", the church of Sweden said.

Runway escape

New York (Reuter) – The landing gear of an American Airlines' DC8 collapsed as the plane prepared for take-off at Kennedy Airport. None of the crew or the 170 passengers on the flight to Los Angeles was hurt.

Peking protest

Peking (Reuter) – Peking University students staged an illegal demonstration to protest against poor living and working conditions, the third known case of campus unrest in China in recent months.

Children killed

Baghdad (AFP) – Two children were killed and five students seriously wounded when a bomb exploded in a central city square here. The Interior Ministry blamed Syria and Iran.

Pipeline blast

Islamabad (AFP) – Sixteen people were killed and eight seriously injured when a natural gas pipeline exploded in central Pakistan. A big fire followed the explosion near the small town of Kashmor.

Freedom day

Dhaka (AP) – Bangladesh is to free 242 people from prison to mark Victory Day (over Pakistan) on Sunday. They will include 92 detained without trial.

Crash toll rises

Prm, West Germany (AP) – Two more children died of injuries suffered in a collision between a school bus and a goods train, raising to four the number of dead.

Poverty study

Brussels – A £15 million poverty study has been approved for the EEC. It will last four years and investigate the problems of the poor.

Production up

Moscow (Reuter) – Soviet industrial output for the first 11 months of 1984 was up 4.3 per cent on the same period last year, Pravda said.

£5m confection

A £5 million factory extension and 50 new shops are planned by Thornton's, the chocolate makers, of Belper, Derbyshire.

Out of time

Brussels (Reuter) – Britain and Ireland will continue to put their clocks back in late October, a month after other members of the European Community, under summer time arrangements for 1986-1988 agreed by Community transport ministers.

Walesa pleads for dialogue on anniversary of martial law

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

On the third anniversary of the imposition of martial law, the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, sharply criticized the Polish Government and urged the Communist authorities to start a dialogue with the opposition.

Mr Walesa's comments came in the text of a speech prepared for delivery on Sunday to mark the 14th anniversary of the shooting of protesting Baltic workers. The speech was released in advance in case police prevented him from delivering it in Gdansk.

The past three years have left no doubt about the complete bankruptcy of those who imagined that it was possible to make changes in Poland without Solidarity, and that it was possible to implement some kind of absolutism, Mr Walesa said.

As a result of martial law, Poland was "sinking into permanent crisis", he stated.

Meanwhile, three Roman Catholic bishops have thrown their weight behind the students occupying a technical college to protest against the Communist authorities ripping down crucifixes from their classrooms. The Church pressure came as hundreds of thousands of Poles throughout the country flocked to religious services to pray for the victims of martial law.

The occupation strike in Wloszczowa, southern Poland, appeared to be the only flashpoint on this most sensitive of all of Poland's political anniversaries.

Underground Solidarity leaders had called on Poles not to forget the December anniversaries – including the third anniversary of the killings of striking miners at the Wujek colliery – but has studiously avoided appealing for demonstrations.

Solidarity sympathizers said that evening Masses could evolve into candle-lit protest processions but that the aim was to express solemn outrage rather than risk confrontation with the police.

Tempers are running high, however, in the Wloszczowa community, where a special "Mass for the Fatherland" was due to be celebrated last night. Bishop Stanislaw Szymecki of Kielce and two auxiliary bishops have issued a statement which clearly is intended to put pressure on the negotiations being held between the education authorities, school management and the parents' committee to end the politically embarrassing "battle of the crosses."

"The parents and children demand that the crucifixes be restored (to the classrooms)," the bishops said. "We believe that this proper demand of the Catholic parents and young people should be fulfilled."

The occupation strike has been continuing since December 3. Two priests have joined the sit-in and lead the 300 protesting students in prayer.

Although the signs were that the anniversary would be celebrated quietly, police were on alert in several cities, including Gdansk.

Indonesia to buy Rapier missiles

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

The Indonesian armed forces have signed an order with British Aerospace for the Rapier missile defence system, said by British Embassy spokesmen to be worth £100 million.

Western military attachés said the short-range, ground-to-air system appeared to have been chosen over several European rivals. The Rapier, they pointed out, performed well in the Falklands war, as did the French Exocet. Indonesia already has exocet missiles.

Diplomatic sources said the main competitor had been the French Roland missile, which although in range was more expensive. They did not rule out the purchase of Roland as a complementary system.

The diplomats saw "no great significance" in the timing of the purchase other than that the armed forces had seen that the time had come to replace outdated heavy soviet weaponry and augment light shoulder-fired missiles.

A second Briton in Libya court

From Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

Another of the Britons detained in Libya since diplomatic relations were severed eight months ago appeared in a Tripoli court yesterday, accused of five offences, one of them relating to state security.

Mr Alan Russell, an English teacher from Suffolk, was charged with possessing papers containing information connected with state security; with passing information to the BBC while under contract as a teacher of English; and with staying in Libya without a resident's visa.

A defence lawyer was appointed and the case was adjourned for a week to give him time to prepare his brief. Mr Hugh Dunnachie, the British consul, and an interpreter were in court.

Mr Russell was the second Briton to be charged in two days after being held for months without trial. Mr Malcolm Anderson, an oil engineer from Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, was remanded in custody to January 12, accused of carrying papers containing information that defamed Libya.

Mr Anderson, who was arrested while returning to Britain, said he was only carrying letters from colleagues in Libya to be posted to relatives in Britain.





Jackie's night out: Mrs Jacqueline Onassis leaving a New York theatre after watching a performance of 'La Bohème'.

Israel accused of killings in Lebanon crackdown

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Israeli forces raided at least seven south Lebanon villages yesterday in what the military command said was an effort "to prevent attacks on our troops".

The Shi-ite Muslim leader, Mr Nadih Berri, who serves as Minister of State for south Lebanon in the Lebanese Cabinet, told a news conference in Beirut that four people were killed during the raids, including a 14-year-old girl. Witnesses said at least 30 people were arrested.

An Israeli patrol was ambushed east of Tyre yesterday afternoon and two soldiers were wounded, reports reaching Beirut indicated.

Mr Berri accused the Israelis of "a large campaign of besieging and storming villages and firing at innocent residents, including women and children", and called for continued resistance against the Israeli occupation force. He also urged shops and businesses to close tomorrow in protest against the *Israeli action.*

The raids, which began before dawn, were conducted in a semi-circle of mostly Shi-ite villages east of Tyre. Most arrests were reportedly in Toura. The Israelis were said to have blown up a house in Maarakeh after explosives were allegedly found in it.

The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv said 14 people were arrested during the operation. All were "suspected of planning and carrying out attacks" against the Israeli forces in the south. "A large quantity of weapons" were confiscated.

Barj Rahha, Toura and Maarakeh were encircled until well into the afternoon. Other villages known to have been searched included Bedias, Abassiyeh, Tir Dibba and Jannoun.

Mr Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which has positions in the area, said a UN medical team was allowed to enter Toura at noon. They found a dead 14-year-old girl and four wounded civilians. "In none of the cases do we know the circumstances of the injuries. We are investigating."

Earlier, Mr Goksel said the bodies of a Lebanese woman from Toura and a man from Maarakeh had been taken to the French Unifil post.

Treason charges against Durban pair

Durban, (AFP) – Two South African anti-apartheid leaders who were arrested on Wednesday on leaving the shelter of the British Consulate here, yesterday appeared in the Durban regional court in connection with allegations of treason.

The activists, two of a group of six who took refuge in the consulate building on September 13 to avoid detention without trial, were Archie Gumede, the 70-year-old leader of the broad-based United Democratic Front (UDF), and Paul David, aged 40, of the Natal Indian Congress, a UDF-affiliated body.

On Monday six other members of the UDF were charged with treason, which carries the death penalty in South Africa.

The treason charges were brought after detention-without-trial orders against the activists were lifted, apparently in response to growing anti-apartheid protests in the United States.

The other six charged are Mewa Ramgobin, 52, George Sewpersadh, 43, M. J. Naidoo, 57, Essop Jassat, 52, Aubrey Mokena, 52 and Curtis Nkondo, 56.

Mr Gumede and Mr David were remanded in custody until December 21, when the magistrate will give a ruling on an application for bail.

A third fugitive, who spent 90 days in the British Consulate to avoid detention without trial and to focus world attention on the system, Mr Billy Nair, was allowed to go free.

Mr Nair spent nearly 20 years on Robben Island, South Africa's prison for political offenders, shortly before he had the detention order

Breakthrough on Cyprus

Kyprianou and Denktas agree to a summit

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have agreed to hold a summit next month, bringing the two sides closer to reunification than at any time since the Turkish invasion of 1974.

President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, will enter the summit having made substantial territorial and constitutional concessions and having reduced the enmity and mistrust between them.

In agreeing to the summit President Kyprianou has removed a self-imposed barrier against meeting Mr Denktas face to face. The President feared it would imply recognition of and lend legitimacy to the unilaterally declared Turkish Cypriot state in the north.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, announced the meeting after concluding three rounds of proximity talks. The sessions were close to collapse when the Turkish Cypriots, under pressure from Turkey, which in turn was being prodded by the United States, offered a compromise on territory.

It is clear from the outline of the peace package and the responses of the two parties that any settlement will take more account of Turkish Cypriot interests than those of the Greek Cypriots. As it stands the comprehensive proposal provides for a bizonal state with a loose federal structure.

The two parties have now gone beyond accepting basic principles for a settlement, contained in agreements derived from the two previous summits in 1977 and 1979. For the first time there has been a meeting of minds on issues of substance.

It has been agreed that legislative power would be divided, with equal representation for each autonomous region in the Upper House, and Greek Cypriot control of the Lower House by a margin of seven to three. The same margin would apply to the executive branch: the Turkish Cypriots have given up the idea of a rotating presidency in favour of securing the Foreign Minister portfolio.

The key remaining issue centres on Turkish Cypriot demands for veto power, which Greek Cypriots fear will be misused and paralyse the federal government's decision-making.

Kirkpatrick and Baker are likely rivals in battle for Reagan's ear

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The key people surrounding President Reagan in the White House are jostling to fill a power vacuum that will be created by the departure early next year of Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, to become Attorney General. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the outgoing US Ambassador to the United Nations, is being touted by conservatives as a possible successor.

The battle for the President's ear is on both a personal and ideological level. Ideologically, it centres on two rival Republican wings: the right wing and the moderates.

Mr Meese, a conservative, is an old friend of the President, a vital link between the Oval Office and the powerful conservative lobby. He is what conservatives call "a true believer", a member of the right wing.

It is well-known in Washington that often the quickest way to reach the President is through Mr Meese. He is expected to leave the White House in February.

Mr Meese has suggested that Mr Reagan may not appoint another counsellor. Conservatives would be unhappy with the President surrounded by officials, who do not carry the sort of direct clout they are seeking.

As Attorney General, a Cabinet post, Mr Meese will continue to be close to the President. But his greatest value to conservatives – that of keeping the door open to the Oval Office – will be lost. Even if Mrs Kirkpatrick fills the job, the departure of Mr Meese will remain a serious loss to the conservative lobby.

Without another counsellor, access to the President would be through several senior aides, principally Mr Richard Darman, Assistant to the President, Mr John Svahn, Assistant to the President for Policy Development, and Mr Craig Fuller, assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs. None has an especially close rapport with Mr Reagan.

Mrs Kirkpatrick has long wanted to be Secretary of State or the President's National Security Adviser. Since neither post has been forthcoming, she might be attracted by being White House counsellor, also a Cabinet-level post. She remains a registered Democrat, but a long-time favourite of conservative Republicans.

Conservatives are determined to stall Mr Howard Baker's attempt to move closer to President Reagan following the departure of Mr Meese. To their chagrin he already enjoys an influential relationship with the President.

Mr Baker, the White House chief of staff, is a moderate conservative – "a pragmatist" in the parlance of Washington Republicans – and has emerged as a key figure in an attempt to modify some aspects of the Administration's conservative agenda.

Treating the survivors of Bhopal



Doctors who are on strike over an assault on a colleague continue to treat victims.

Strained relations on mend as Canada warms to the US

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's new Conservative Government has moved on two fronts in recent days to harmonize relations with the United States, often strained under the previous Liberal administration.

In doing so it has stoked an increasingly vigorous debate here about how close Canada should allow itself to be drawn into the embrace of its big neighbour.

The latest move was the speech which the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, made to the Economic Club of New York this week, which amounted to an open call for more US business investment in Canada.

Outlining his Government's plans for abolishing most of the restrictions on foreign investment instituted several years ago by the Liberals, Mr Mulroney said: "Our message is clear – Canada is open for business again." About 1,500 high-powered business executives and financiers applauded loudly.

Mr Mulroney's speech followed by three days the introduction by the Tories of legislation to abolish the Foreign Investment Review Agency and replace it with a new agency to be known as Investment Canada.

The new agency's mandate will be to stimulate foreign investment, rather than hinder it by obstructive screening processes aimed at determining whether individual transactions are in Canada's interest, as takes place under FIRA.

The proposed changes are the most concrete evidence yet of the Government's determination to move Canada away from nationalistic policies which caused endless friction with the US, and to some extent other countries as well, when the Liberals were in power.

Mr Mulroney further pleased his New York audience, and the Reagan Administration, by pledging to remove a second source of trouble in the bilateral relationship. That is a regulation introduced in 1981 giving the Canadian Government a one-quarter share in all oil discoveries off the Canadian coasts or in the North. Most of the exploration in these frontier areas is carried out by American-owned multi-national companies.

By making Canada more Hospitable to foreign capital, Mr Mulroney hopes to give the economy the boost it needs to help him redeem his campaign promise of a substantial reduction in Canada's chronically high unemployment, now running at 11.3 per cent.

He also hopes to further nourish Canada-US trade, already expected to reach the staggering level of $US110 billion this year. Seventy-five per cent of all Canadian exports go to the US and the proportion could go even higher if current proposals for bilateral free-trade arrangements – subject of fierce controversy within Canada – are adopted, on this point.

The Prime Minister has worked hard to establish a close rapport with President Reagan, and this week it was announced that the President will visit Canada next March, repaying a visit Mr Mulroney made to Washington eight days after his installation as Prime Minister in September. The two leaders have agreed to meet once a year.

Rooftop hanging

New York (AFP) – A visiting communist Chinese official has been found hanged from a cable on the roof of Peking's consulate-general in Manhattan. Zhang Xin, aged 49, a Textile Ministry official, committed suicide, the consulate said.

Brazil set for civilian rule

Neves seeks growth and a fairer deal

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Senhor Tancredo Neves, the Democratic Alliance candidate, who is almost certain to become Brazil's first civilian president for 20 years, has outlined his economic programme.

Senhor Neves, who is supported by the Brazilian Democratic Movement and the Liberal Front breakaway group from the ruling Social Democrats (PDS), said it was essential for the economy to grow, but this had to be achieved without permitting inflation to rise.

More jobs had to be created, the work force better paid and wealth more justly distributed.

However, there was no margin for tax increases, and growth should be financed by increased savings. The foreign debet of $100 billion (£83 billion) would be renegotiated in a realistic way, and creditors had to realize that a country of 120 million people with serious social problems could not cease growing.

Brazil would have to balance its accounts, and continue with its aggressive exporting policy. Foreign capital would be welcomed, without any trace of xenophobia, as a complement to private enterprise.

Senhor Neves warned of the danger of the power of the state increasing. Proper priority has to be given to private enterprise, and the state must not be allowed to become more powerful. If the state's presence becomes excessive, it could interfere overmuch with company decisions, and diminish efficiency.

Priority would be given to the North-East, where malnutrition and infant mortality were well above Brazil's average, Señhor Neves said. Agriculture would also be given special emphasis, as it was essential to maintain food supplies, earn export revenues, and provide employment. More financial autonomy would be given to the states and municipalities, he promised.

The victory of Señhor Neves at tomorrow's electoral college meeting now seems virtually assured. He has the support of twice the number of delegates as his rival, the PDS candidate, Señhor Paulo Maluf, whose support has evaporated in recent weeks.

Even President Figueiredo's government has grudgingly accepted that an opposition politician will be Brazil's first civilian President after 20 years of governments led by generals.

This has largely been brought about by most of the political establishment discovering that they were excluded from Señhor Maluf's plans. They then set about thwarting him, even if it meant deserting the PDS and allying with the opposition.

The Government initially tried to stop this drift, by threats and other means.

Señhor Maluf's chances were finally destroyed by a ruling of the Electoral Court in Brasilia, which set aside a decision by the PDS directorate, now dominated by Señhor Maluf, that all politicians elected on the PDS ticket in 1982 should be obliged to vote for their party's official candidate, on pain of expulsion and loss of office.

Swiss MPs favour joining UN

From Alan McGregor Geneva

A milestone in Switzerland's slow shuffle towards joining the United Nations was reached yesterday when the upper house of Parliament voted in favour by 24 votes to 16, of emulating the example set in March by the lower house (112 votes to 78).

The votes are in conformity with the Swiss Government's 1982 recommendation, but because of the constitutional amendment involved, the issue has still to be put to a national referendum. This is not expected before early 1986.

The country is a long-standing member, as well as the host of several specialized UN agencies.

While UN membership by other neutral nations, and Sweden in particular, has gradually dispelled fears that Swiss neutrality would be compromised, many Swiss, particularly in the majority German-speaking cantons, are critical of the world body's failures to resolve international issues and end local wars.

Before yesterday's parliamentary vote, the Foreign Minister, Mr Pierre Aubert, asserted that Switzerland could no longer afford to remain a mere observer, "in the only forum where formation of world peace is discussed".

Rebels step up war against Marcos

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Communist guerrilla attacks and influence in the central Philippines have increased alarmingly and New People's Army rebels are aiming to establish a clandestine provisional revolutionary government in the region within two years, according to military offcials.

A stepped-up "stratgic offensive" is planned in the Central Visayas region, involving a military and propaganda operation coupled with a intensified drive to recruit supporters to fight the 19-year-old Marcos Government, the officials said.

In a briefing for the armed forces' Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, the military commanders of the Regional Unified Commands in Eastern and Western Visayas also confirmed mounting popular support for the rebels.

The NPA had gained much support from "non-traditional sectors", such as professional people, landowners and businessmen, who provided much of their financial backing, said Brigadier-General Isidoro de Guzmán of the Western Visayas RUC.

He reported that in the first nine months of the year there were 223 "violent incidents" in the five provinces under his command, in which 82 soldiers and 60 civilians died. There were six raids on towns and military camps.

In the Eastern Visayas, 11 towns and 29 military camps and outposts were raided, Brigadier-General Salvador Mison said. He complained to General Ramos that troop detachments were undermanned and underarmed. Soldiers killed in battle were not replaced and no new weapons were issued for those captured by the NPA. There were an estimated 850 NPA guerrillas in the region, General Mison said, supported by 15,000 "activists".

The NPA's "mass base of support" – the population under their control or supportive of their actions – was more than 230,000 on Samar Island alone, he said.

Military and government officials in recent weeks have conceded greater battlefield success, support and mobility of NPA guerrillas who, General Ramos estimates, could number 10,000 to 12,000 men spread across almost all of the country's 73 provinces.

Doctors say sight can be saved

From Trevor Fishlock Bhopal

Hundreds of people in Bhopal have suffered serious eye damage and some will be left with a permanent partial loss of sight. Nevertheless, eye specialists are confident that the great majority of those affected by the leaking methyl isocyanate (MIC) have not suffered serious eye injury.

Pictures of people with bandaged eyes can be misleading. Eyes are covered as part of the treatment, and a temporary impairment of vision is caused by one of the drugs used in the treatment.

Mrs Sudhar Garg is typical of many people who felt her eyes burning and irritating as the yellow gas drifted into her home. When I saw her on Sunday her eyes were bandaged. Yesterday the bandages were off and she was told her sight should return to normal

Mrs Garg was treated at Bhopal military hospital, which has admitted 450 gas victims. Major R. Khatri, an eye specialist there, said: "About 5 per cent of our eye cases are graded as very serious – that means they have a lot of damage to the cornea and will have partial blindness.

Pisani sees risk of more New Caledonia clashes

Noumea (Reuter) – The French special envoy, M Edgard Pisani, who was sent to the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia to defuse communal tension, said yesterday that there was a danger of new violence between militant Kanaks and white settlers.

M Pisani, in his first full news conference since arriving on December 4, said: "In the last 10 days considerable progress has been made. But I cannot guarantee that at one moment or another a new wave of disturbances might not compromise these gains".

Last month Kanaks seeking independence set up barricades and clashed with white settlers after the election of an island assembly was won by the conservative Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République, which opposes independence. The militant Kanaks boycotted the vote.

France has said it will hold a referendum on independence in 1989, although M Pisani has indicated he will discuss an earlier date in talks with all factions. Yesterday he said: "When things are normal, when there are no conflicts, when there is a consensus of opinion, then restroration of order means something.

He said he would return to Paris next week for discussions with President Mitterrand

Florida asks Washington to pay for Cuban influx

New York (NYT) Florida officials have called on the federal Government to take financial responsibility for an expected influx of tens of thousands of Cubans to the Miami area as a result of an agreement in principal on emigration reached by American and Cuban negotiators this week.

Under the agreement, Cuba would take back every month 100 to 150 of the 2,500 criminals and mental patients who fled to the United States from the Cuban port of Mariel four years ago. In return, the United States would begin regular processing of applications that could lead to as many as 30,000 Cubans a year coming in in addition to 3,000 political prisoners previously promised a haven.

According to Governor Bob Graham, Florida was left with $150 million (£122 million) in unpaid local and staff bills after the 1980 influx. By the end of this decade the number of Hispanic residents in south Florida could approach one million, as the "Marielitos" gain status as permanent residents, then citizens, and become eligible to send for some 300,000 family members in Cuba.

Senator Lawton Chiles and Representative Dante Fascell, both Florida Demorcrats, joined the Government in requesting that President Reagan take financial responsibility for the new immigrants.

Mr George Price, Prime Minister of Belize, faces a close fight today to retain his 30-year political power in the former British colony's first general election since independence in 1981. His People's United Party is challenged by the United Democratic Party of Mr Manuel Esquivel

Phone call gives win to Kasparov

Moscow (Reuter) – Gary Kasparov, the challenger, won his first game yesterday in a marathon battle against the world chess titleholder Anatoly Karpov.

Karpov, who now leads 5-1, gave up his hope of retaining the title with a 6–0 score by resigning the 32nd game. It was not only Kasparov's first win in this match but the first of his life against Karpov in 35 attempts.

Although it was Kasparov, playing white, who had sealed his 41st move in the adjournment envelope on Wednesday, a night of analysis convinced Karpov and his assistants that the challenger's extra pawn would be enough for a win.

Kasparov, who according to his aides was completely discouraged, has shown tremendous character in the last two games, saving a position in the 31st game some thought desperate before winning yesterday.

The next game, with Karpov playing white, is due to take place on December 17. The game has been postponed from the previous Friday because the Soviet Academy of Sciences booked the hall in which the match is taking place, for a ceremony.

Karpov signalled his resignation in the 32nd game by telephoning the chief arbiter, Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia, an hour and a half before the session was due to begin.

Kasparov's sealed move was straightforward, initiating a race of pawns. The fact that Karpov did not bother to resume showed that even a slightly inferior move would have been enough for Kasparov to win and that experts' overnight analysis confirmed Karpov's position was without hope.

Thirty-second game
(Kasparov, white; Karpov, black)
Queen's Indian Defence

1	P-Q4	Kt-KB3	2	P-QB4	P-K3
3	Kt-KB3	P-QKt3	4	Kt-B3	B-K2
5	P-QR3	P-Q4	6	PxP	KtxP
7	Q-B2	Kt-Q2	8	KtxKt	PxKt
9	B-Kt5	P-KB3	10	B-B4	P-QB4
11	P-KKt3	P-KKt3	12	P-KR4	Q-K2
13	B-Kt2	B-KKt2	14	P-KR5	P-KB4
15	Q-Q2	B-KB3	16	R-QB1	R-QB1
17	R-B3	R-B3	18	R-K3	R-K3
19	RxR	QxR	20	Kt-Kt5	Q-K2
21	BxBP	KtxBP	22	PxP	P-Q5
23	P-Kt7	BxP	24	BxB	QxB
25	P-B3	Q-Q4	26	RxP	RxR
27	KtxR	Q-Kt6	28	B-Q6	Kt-K3
29	Kt-Kt5	B-R3	30	B-B4	BxKt
31	BxB	KtxB	32	QxKt	QxKtP
33	QxP	Q-B8ch	34	K-B2	Q-Kt5ch
35	K-B1	Q-B8ch	36	K-Kt2	QxP
37	Q-R5ch	K-Q2	38	Q-Kt4ch	K-B3
39	QxP	P-Kt4	40	P-Kt4	P-Kt5
41	P-Kt5 resigns.				

Japanese food-store extortions on increase

Blunders erode faith in police

From David Watts Tokyo

A cartoon strip in a leading Japanese newspaper showed a senior police officer dismissing his staff of detectives for failure to solve the extortion cases against four firms which have plagued the country since March. A junior colleague warns the officer that, if he sacks the men, he will merely add to the criminal population.

The cartoon is doubly wounding for the police – not only has their stock plunged because of lack of success in the extortion cases, but an unusually large number of crimes have been committed recently by serving and retired policemen.

A series of blunders in the long-running extortion case, which have just been revealed, show the police as poorly co-ordinated and forgetful of the fudamentals of good police-work.

The chairman of the body which controls the police, the National Public Safety commission, Mr Toru Furuya, has admitted a "major failure" and the extortionists, known as the Glico-Morinaga Gang, after the names of two target companies appear untouchable.

Glico and Morinaga are two of Japan's leading confectionery firms, up to now the gang's main targets. But the police have revealed that another big food firm, House Food Industrial Company, received an extortion threat last month demanding 100 million yen or the extortion group would start poisoning its products on supermarket shelves. That has already happened to the Morinaga company. Its products have virtually disappeared from the market, staff have been laid off, and the price of its stock has plunged.

In monitoring the gang's most recent attempt to collect extortion money, the police appear to have bungled three opportunities of arresting at least one of the gang. Twice a man on a bicycle thought to have been a member of the gang got away from police, and when a motor patrol officer questioned the driver of a wanted white estate car he parked behind the vehicle, not in front, and the driver escaped.

The car was later abandoned and in it the police found a radio similar to their own equipment and other items linking the group or individual to the extortion attempts. The recovery of the equipment confirmed that the gang has been monitoring police communications and moving accordingly.

In order to reduce the of communications the gang could monitor, the police limited the humber of officers in the know to those directly involved in the dragnet operation. Officers on routine patrol were unaware of what was happening around them and missed valuable chances.

The gang claimed in its latest extortion threat that it had already received money, and there were hints that when the kidnapped president of the Glico company was released earlier this year he had reached an agreement with the extortioners.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Characters in a universe of reckless violence

"That's Not All Folks"
ICA

Dune (pg)
Empire, Leicester Square

Caravan of Courage (u)
Odeon, Marble Arch

The Last Starfighter (pg)
Leicester Square Theatre

For the grown-up stuff among the Christmas fare you are advised to go to the ICA, where they are presenting three separate programmes of classic Hollywood cartoons of the forties and fifties. When I was a child Walt Disney was considered edifying enough, but the anarchic violence of Loony Tunes, Merrie Melodies, and the other seven-minute surrealities from MGM and Warners was considered definitely depraving to the young.

Today some of their aspects – the subversion and occasional unabashed racism – remain as startling. It is clearer now though that this was a golden age of animation, created out of the comic invention and craftsmanship of a remarkable generation of directors – Tex Avery, Isadore "Fritz" Freleng, Chuck Jones, Bob Clampett, Frand Tashlin – and the great animation artists like Ken Harris who supported them.

They bequeathed a legacy of characters as memorable as any that came out of Hollywood – those loud, bright outrageous creatures who included Bugs Bunny, Elmer Clampett, Daffy Duck, Tweety Pie, Sylvester, Elmer Fudd, Droopy, Speedy Gonzalez and a host more. They inhabited a universe of reckless violence whose victims were *stretched, compressed, shot out of* guns, burnt to cinders, flattened like pancakes by anvils or steamrollers and propelled through brick walls, leaving neatly-fretted stencils *in memoriam*.

Behind it all though there was craft and science. There is much more to animation than making drawings move. These creatures have their own life and substance. The great animators must be masters of the laws governing dynamics, mass, weight and gravity whether they intend to respect or to destroy those laws. These artists knew both their physics and their Muybridge.

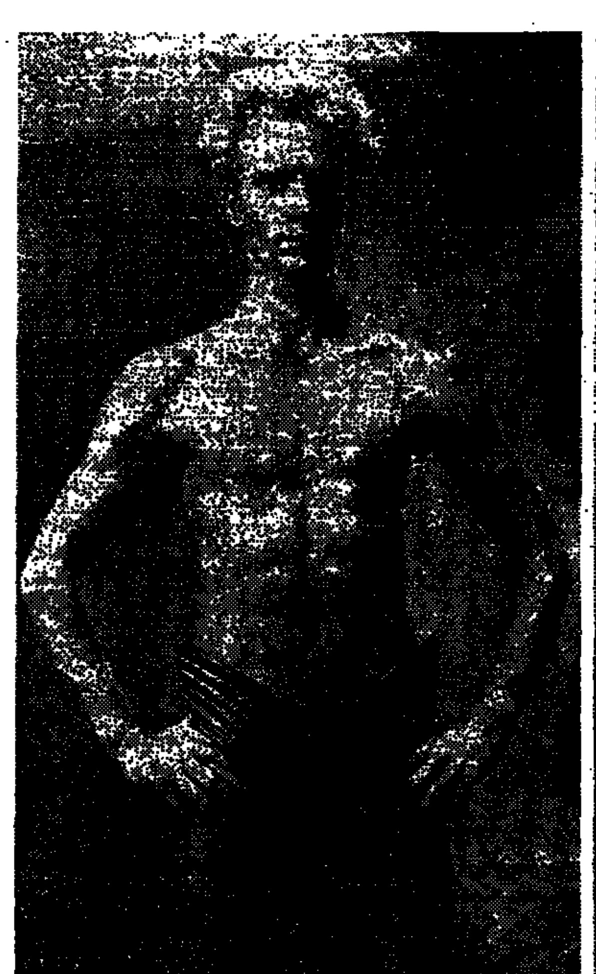
Two long-suppressed cartoons in the ICA programmes mischeivously parody Disney originals. Bob Clampett's *Coal Black and De Sebben Dwarfs* is a brilliant, monstrous anthology of black stereotypes. Tex Avery's *Blitz Wolf* is a paraphrase of *The Three Little Pigs* with a Hitler Wolf and some shocking racist sentiments relating to Japan. The most delirious though is *Duck Amuck*, in which poor Daffy Duck is submitted to the whims of a sadistic animator who capriciously torments him by changing his backgrounds, costumes and shape and, as the most refined cruelty, simply rubs him out.

Today's Hollywood seems exclusively dedicated to making and marketing special effects and synthetic mythologies for our time. **Dune** is one of the most ambitious, spectacular, polished and tedious of the type to date. The tardiness in *bringing* Frank Herbert's best-selling science fiction novel to the screen – it appeared in 1965 and has already had several sequels – is no doubt explained by the great complexity of the book, which required a mass of elucidatory appendices, and does in the end defeat this adaptation. Even though the first half hour of the film is mostly wordy exposition, while a breathless voice from time to time obliges with additional background information on the biology, geology, geography, technology, zoology and dynastic successions of the embattled cosmos of *the eleventh millenium, it* is still fairly hard to make sense of what is going on.

The general idea is that the good people of the Universe, the House Atreides, who are white, beautiful, speak American and believe in God, are *beleaguered by their enemies, the* vile Harkonnens. The Altreides prove victorious when fate sends them a Messiah to lead them to victory in the holy war. The temptation to see metaphors for contemporary American paranoia is increased since the struggle is economic as well as political: the desert of Dune produces "the spice" which gives hallucinations of the conquest of space and time. The cosmic warcry is "Who owns the spice controls the universe."

The queer mixture of motives from classical and biblical mythology, Ruritanian history and science fiction technology is reflected as much in the etymology as the design of the film. The cosmic political system is called the Landsraat and has its Emperor, Dukes, Princes and Barons; but other titles, like the Bene Gesserit and the Kwisatz Haderach have a definite Old Testament ring. Likewise the year 10,991 is envisioned by the production designer Anthony Masters as something between Venice, the Moscow Underground, *2001* and *King's Rhapsody*.

This is not to diminish the visual qualities of the film which is as opulent and spectacular as it should be, having cost a reputed $40-50m. Crucial to its visual style is the work of the British director of photography Freddie Francis. The special effects wizards include Kit West, Albert Whitlock and the monster-maker Carlo Rambaldi, who created E T and here supplies some giant earth worms and a king-size tadpole who serves as *the Supreme Being. They have tended* to revert to traditional mechanical methods like model shots, mattes and puppet animation which in the end generally prove more effective than electronic high-tech.





Sting as the saucy catamite in *Dune*, and Daffy under attack in *Duck Amuck*

At least then there is something to look at while the players gabble on about their incomprehensibe conflicts; and their are a lot of players to gabble, including Silvana Mangano and Sian Phillips as bald witches, Jose Ferrer as Emperor, Freddie Jones as Freddie Jones and Max Von Sydow at a loss. The most colourful figures are Kenneth McMillan as a poxy, porcine tyrant who floats in the air and Sting as his saucy catamite.

Directors seem doomed to be swamped by technology; and there is nothing to betray *Dune* as the work of the talented David Lynch, who made *Eraserhead* and *The Elephant Man*. No more might you guess that John Korty, who efficiently directed and photographed **Caravan of Courage** was once the idiosyncratic director of *Funnyman* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman*. The *raison d'etre* of *Caravan of Courage* is further to exploit the Ewoks, the cuddly teddy-bear creatures in pixy hoods from *Return of the Jedi*. Here the spunky little things befriend a couple of unappealing children who have crashed in a space craft, and help them rescue their parents from a giant monkey-monster.

As usual the technology outclasses the script. Even the very young might resent the elementary treatment of the *human relationships and the dreadful* banality of the dialogue. Fortunately the Ewoks mostly speak in squeaks and body language. The star Ewok Wicket, is made cute and personable by a three-foot English youth called Warwick Davis.

The Last Starfighter, directed by Nick Castle from a script by Jonathan Betuel, is less ambitious than these, but wins out by humour and emphasis on the human aspects of its story. The young hero (Lance Guest) *is a likeable lad who helps his mother* manage their run-down trailer park with its cranky denizens. He also happens to be an electronic games wizard, a talent which leads to his recruitment by an emissary from outer space, played by the agelessly impish Robert Preston.

The attraction of the film is the way it constantly keeps the human element in view: the lad's place on earth is taken temporarily by an outer-space clone, who has some droll *difficulties in standing in for his* amorous involvements. The special effects are all done exclusively, economically and satisfactorily with computer animations.

David Robinson

Television

In the asylum

Witold Starecki's **Asylum** *(Forty Minutes*, BBC 2) was a distinguished and distressing documentary, which examined the plight of mental patients in the Polish asylum of Choroszcz: they have the choice of becoming unpaid farm labourers, living in the homes of local peasants, or of remaining in a hospital wheih displayed an institutional horror which had to be seen to be believed. It was not an easy film to watch, therefore, as they shuffled through the patched and peeling corridors – apparently in a drug-induced torpor, except for the occasional scream or cry. One woman was seen calling from behing a barred window, "Mummy, mummy, take me away!"

Some of them were taken away but only to "foster homes", where they began their labour in the flat and misty fields. It became clear that, in some cases, these disturbed people had ceased to be patients only to become the slaves of peasants who seemed to be as hard and unyielding as the soil. Who could see this programme and talk about "the dignity of labour"? And yet others for the first time clearly found a measure of affection and comradeship: it was the merit of this documentary that it showed both aspects of the case, and that it did so without polemic or obtrusive sentimentality.

To say that it was beautifully filmed is perhaps to suggest that its primary appeal was aesthetic, but that would be unfair to both the subjects and the makers of the programme. It was shaped and edited like a feature film but only in the sense that it gave significant emphases where they were required.

By taking such care over presentation (unlike the rough-edged "fly on the wall" technique *of some documentaries*), the human truth of the situation was displayed more profoundly – and, in the process, these narrow and damaged lives were given a significance which they really possessed. In the dumb or deranged, and the relationships which others form with them, we may see the true shape of the world. As a study of a rural culture, *Asylum* was extraordinary; as a record of human affliction, it was unique.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

Same old Met

Simon Boccanegra
Metropolitan, New York

The production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* recently unveiled is significant in that it evidences certain traits which have become important in the house. It is not, strictly speaking, a new production, although it is new to the Metropolitan Opera. It originated in Chicago, and travelled to San Francisco, and along the way lost the name of its designer, Pier Luigi Pizzi.

The massive, often handsome and ultra-traditional sets go uncredited in the programme, probably because Pizzi's production has been placed by the very unobtrusive movement blockings of Tito Capobianco.



Paul Plishka as Jacopo Fiesco and Sherrill Milnes's Simon Boccanegra

James Levine, who conducted, was in fact more central to the performance than either the producer or the designer. He shaped the performance in the style, if not in the specifics, of Karajan's methods in Salzburg – attention to ensembles, to the integration of soloists and chorus, the correct chordings within the orchestra and the correct intonations between the orchestra in the pit and the off-stage band. This was an extemely musically-orientated performance, reflected in the choice of singers and in the placing of vocalism above acting ability. If the result was more a concert in costume than a dramatic entity, that result was in part justified by the power of Verdi's music as drama, and by Verdi's consistent focus on the vicissitudes of the reformed sea-dog Boccanegra.

Sherrill Milnes's Boccanegra is no subtle portrait, either vocally or histrionically. His cannon of a voice resounded about the house, and he gave a strongly-defined performance, if one that was essentially extrovert in its emotions. His voice has, since his difficulties of a few years ago, become roughened and not a little hollow in its basic sound, and has lost that innate lyric quality it once possessed. Milnes therefore must work to project humanity of the role through the singing, particularly in the great Council Chamber Scene ensemble, and he must work to differentiate the timbre of the voice from the gravel of Peter Glossop's Paolo – an excellent character sketch, strongly cast.

Milnes's voice, however, is of a different quality from the soft-grained bass of Paul Plishka as Fiesco, so that, if Fiesco is here heard in more grandfatherly than vengeful patrician guise, by the same token the reconciliation duet with Boccanegra in the last act is made into a meeting of like minds.

Anna Tomowa-Sintow, as Amelia, was doubtless chosen for her vocal strength and rounded tone rather than for Italianate lyricism, and once past her opening aria, which was both stolidly sung and fluttering around the pitch, she gave a performance notable for its good vocal sense rather than for its ability to touch the heart. Vasile Moldoveanu's Gabriele, again, represented clean, powerful and somewhat neutral tenor singing: one admires the quality of the voice and the directness *of approach*.

In sum, then, a very conservative view of Verdi's work, predicated on vocal and ensemble considerations taking precedence over staging ones. The Met, it seems, wishes to *remain the cliché of the Met.*

Patrick J. Smith

Theatre

The world according to Adrian Mole

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole
Wyndham's

Simon Schatzberger as Adrian Mole, bedevilled by adults and proliferating pustules

There is no unscrambling the formula of a best-seller; but, judging from the extraordinary mixture of fur coats and scruffy school blazers thronging Wyndham's on Wednesday night, one highly marketable element in Sue Townsend's *Secret Diary* is that by blowing the gaff on the sex war of every age group from the vantage point of a 13-year-old, wrestling with proliferating pustules and an accident-prone dog, the book managed to include something for everybody.

The stage version is her own work (helped out with some highly apposite songs, based on the poems of A. Mole, by Ken Howard and Alan Blaikley); it is well up to the standard of their previous plays. Another adapter might have clung too closely to the pattern of the diary. As its author Miss Townsend has assumed full licence to rethink *the whole thing, while retaining* the main bones of the story.

This could have been the show's downfall. It is one thing for Adrian to lope off to the bedroom and note down the latest domestic calamity as a *means of putting himself over* as a neglected, misunderstood intellectual whose true value the world will come to acknowledge. It is another to show the parents screaming at each other, and the next-door husband spiriting his mother off to Sheffield, leaving Adrian to cope with a vile-tempered, jobless father.

Miss Townsend and her director, Graham Watkins, get around this by treating the house and its adult occupants in seaside postcard style. No punches are pulled. But the middle-aged characters come over as ritualized mannikins, forever erupting into push-button passions, and giving a thoughtful boy plenty of cause to shake his head over the incomprehensible follies of adult behaviour.

As a setting, Anthony Dean even presents a gauze-fronted dolls' house, with tiny rooms smothered in garish yellow wallpaper, and a roof that doubles as a calender.

With Adrian himself, admiring and self-pitying self-portraiture has to give way to actuality; here presented by Simon Schatzberger as a crumpled, unathletic loser, drudging round the house in a lurex apron, stoically submitting to the school bully, and periodically shedding his glum, long-suffering looks for beams of infatuated rapture when the well-connected Pandora *bestows a glance in his direction.*

The production has not skimped on the surrounding parts. Among the best of them are Sheila Colling's grandma, descending with the full force of the Evergreens Club to demolish the school bully; and Katherine Schlesinger as a high-powered nymphet leading the red socks rebellion.

Brisk and brutal as it is, the show also has plenty to say about adult pain and affection; as in Su Elliott's sad cameo of the skinny, much-discarded mistress; and David Davenport, marvellous as the 89-year-old pensioner, last seen in a wheelchair minuet uniting old and youth against the tyranny of the middle years.

Irving Wardle

Red Riding Hood
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

"No flair, no style, no snap to his garter", says the Dame at one point of some inferior male. Stratford East's centenary pantomime has plenty of all three. From its very first number, a merciless revue parody of a panto opening chorus, Philip Hedley's production manages to be immensely enjoyable sophisticated camp while keeping the kids happy with wolf-spotting routines, inviting them up to test a Heath Robinson beast-trap and filling the stage with delicious furry animals to entice members of the cast into the monster's lair.

The hairy horror himself (Michael Bertenshaw) is a gastronome barely satisfied with goldfish, chicken and hamster soup prepared by two menials in the guise of a butcher (Bob Critchley) and a head waiter (James Saxon). Kate Hardie, the 16-year-old heroine, is a surly, masculine miss from a broken home while the lantern-jawed Colin Bennett makes glamorous *old Grandma with a rich line in* acid asides and endless vitality ("She can dance the night through, looking, what, 32. If her Guinness is topped with gin").

The music (by Brian Protheroe) and lyrics are witty and intelligent, far above the average, and David Cregan's tight script leaves you wanting more. High points of hilarity include a simpering ensemble recommending twee herbs for increasingly grotesque ailments, a quick-fire quartet of stinky nursery insults, and a neat duet for the henchmen asking "What are you doing for dinner tonight?", a veiled invitation to be the dinner rather than eat it. These gentlemen also justify *their grisly trade in* "It's a Living", a Brechtianly ironic number making a barely concealed social comment.

Specially good work, too, from Marjorie Yates as a tweedy old party prowling around with a blunderbuss, if that indeed is what it is, and from the ample persons of Jo Warne and Richard Tate as Red Riding Hood's flustery middle-aged mum and her check-suited Welsh bank manager, still at the heavy courting stage after seven years. Thanks, Stratford – and have a happy hundredth birthday next week.

Anthony Masters

Concert

Gothic Voices
Wigmore Hall

Carolling was not high on the agenda on Wednesday night; but the rolling, tolling rhythms of the fifteenth-century advent carol "Nova, nova" gave Margaret Philpot, Rogers Covey-Crump, Leigh Nixon and John Mark Ainsley a good opportunity to have a lusty sing together at the end of a finely-balanced and exquisitely-performed evening of fifteenth-century song.

This anonymous jigging ditty with its punning refrain was one of the simplest and certainly best known pieces in their programme. Yet Gothic Voices brought to it all the subtlety of inflection and sharp flavouring of verbal and musical phrase that they had earlier lavished on the complexities of Dufay and Machaut.

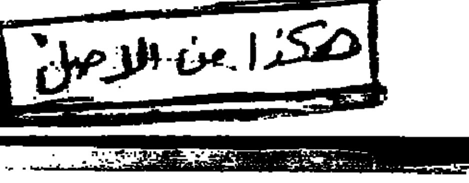
Guillaume de Machaut who, chronologically, crept into the programme only by the skin of his teeth, provided its most *enticing variety. Garnished with* the extravaganza of the old ways, his club-sandwich of a song, "De triste cuer Quant vrais/Certes je di", was relished by the group's three tenors.

Machaut, at his most sensuous, appeared in the three teasing vocal lines of "Dame je suis citz/Fins cuers doulz". As the singers' voices chased and collided with each other within a strangely mesmeric stillness of timbre, there was a sensation of sound itself being tried and *tasted. No less telling was the* ebb and flow of harmonic suggestion in the unaccompanied melody of Margaret Philpot's beautifully-turned "Dame a qui".

As a foil to Machaut there was Dufay, *breathing a lighter*, headier air. His "J'attendray tant" had started the evening, with its coppery, plangent accents and lilting pace poised to perfection. The gentle undulations of his "Quel fronte signorille" had ended a small group of love songs, sung, as a contemporary writer assured us, only by "bad, thieving boys" intent on incest, sodomy and card-playing.

Anecdotes like these, chanced upon in his researches by the group's director Christopher Page, were scattered sparely at just the right moments in the evening, and typified the fine balance between earnest edification and entertainment which this group has to a nicety. Their forthcoming third record, *The Garden of Zephirus*, doubtless takes its name from the anonymous "N'a pas longtemps que trouvay Zephirus", a delightfully florid horticultural conceit, somewhere between chanson, rondeau and ballade,

Hilary Finch



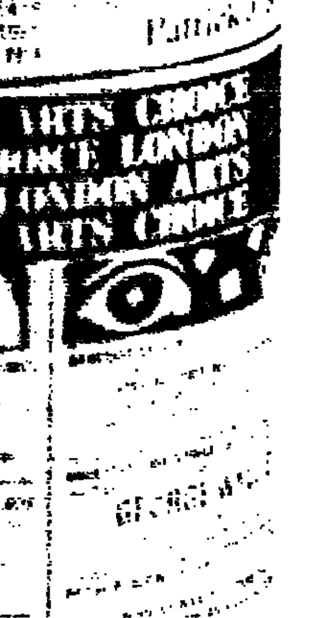
Television

...e asylum

Peter Ad...

Opera

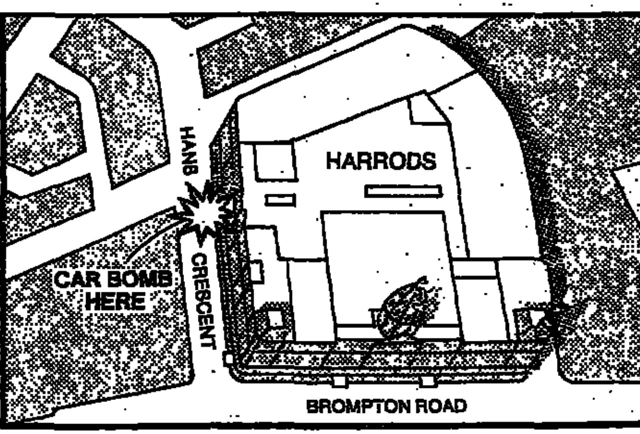
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Rebuilding their lives after the horror



- **On December 17 last year, an IRA car bomb exploded outside Harrods killing six people – three police officers, the young wife of a Scottish land owner, a journalist, and an American businessman.**
- **Next Monday, the first anniversary of the blast, a second memorial service will be held.**
- ***Suzanne Greaves* reports on how the bereaved are learning to cope and how those who escaped look back on an event that changed their lives.**



Susan Arbuthnot began to worry when she heard a bomb had exploded in Knightsbridge, where her 22-year-old daughter Jane was on duty as a WPC. Shortly afterwards, a visit from Jane's chief superintendent Mike Haines confirmed her worst fears.

Almost a year later, Mrs Arbuthnot thumbed through a box containing hundreds of letters sent by friends and unknown sympathizers. Two photograph albums contain the floral tribute cards and pictures of the wreaths and flowers sent to Jane.

"It hurts, it still physically hurts to think about that afternoon. You can't believe this thing has happened to your



Painful memories: Susan and Jake Arbuthnot with their son Richard.

daughter", she said. "It was a nightmarish time and it's absolutely true that as time goes by and you throw yourself into other things the nightmare lifts, but the pain is still there.

"Events like the Brighton *bomb can trigger off your* emotions. Or when I see pretty things in a shop window. Janey was very fond of pretty clothes.

"Mike has been wonderful to all of us these last 12 months, but there is a limit to how much you can impose upon friends. In the end I was helped by a marvellous member of the Samaritans. She just sat and listened to me for hour upon hour."

Her husband Jake has found comfort in the church and now attends Chelsea police station's local church, St Luke's. The couple have also drawn strength from their own close family life. This summer their son Richard was married. Charles, who at 25 was cloest to Jane, obtained his degree in electronic engineering and daughter Sally is married and living nearby at Kingston-upon-Thames.

It was also the needs of family that strengthened Mrs Maureen Dodd, widow of Inspector Stephen Dodd. The couple were separated, but the bond of their children, Anthony (12), *Melanie (10) and Suzanne* (8), brought the family together at a party two days before Stephen was critically injured. The youngsters were looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with their father – the day he died.

"I told the children their daddy had died saving the lives of lots of other people and that we've always got to remember that", said Mrs Dodd. "Naturally they cried, although they knew Stephen had been in hospital, because of his injuries. I told them it's no good being upset. We've got to live with this and be as brave as their daddy was. I was advised they should go to his funeral. I was not sure about this, but I see now this was necessary for their grieving. They could see it was the end and I'm sure this has helped them a lot."

After the funeral Anthony tried to become the man of the family. But, still only a child, he followed his mother everywhere.

"His school work had deteriorated and I felt it was the best thing for him to be in the all-male environment of a boarding school. He totally enjoys the life, enjoys sports and plays the clarinet and *piano. He is a big boy, just like* his dad and needs to be fully occupied."

With Anthony at boarding school, Maureen Dodd began rebuilding her life. She moved to a different area, sent her daughters to a small private day school, immersed herself in the final year of a London University humanities degree and took *on the voluntary job of a parish* administrator at St Luke's Church, Chelsea.

"We had become public property locally, objects of curiosity. We could never forget and it was necessary to get totally away from everything."

The aftermath of their father's death had different affects upon the girls. "Melanie *is very self-contained, she hides* her feelings which is not a good thing. Suzie has always been very highly strung but now it's worse. I once said to her, 'Suzie, we should be closer now,' but she just turned away. When I asked her what was the matter she said, 'It's Daddy' and I thought, 'Oh God'. We talked about Steve a lot. She imagines him dressed as a policeman in heaven."

Mrs Dodd received a payment from the police welfare fund plus £5,000 from the Knightsbridge Fund, now invested in her children's education.

To the outside world no Harrods survivor made a more positive attempt to close one chapter and open another than Nigel Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick. Six months after his wife Jasmine was killed as she shopped for a Christmas present for their two-year-old son James, he had met and married Emma Collins. *The 23-year-old new mistress of* her husband's inherited Scottish estate is perhaps the only other person who knows how often and how poignantly that previous chapter returns to haunt his private moments.

"Time has gone by, but you can't forget someone just because they have been blown out of your life", says Emma. "Obviously he has got his memories and I know that he gets upset even though he tries to keep it from me. It will always be a shock for him, a horror he will never get over. And nor will James. He hardly remembers Jasmine, but he will always live with the knowledge of how his mother died.

"If Nigel appears to have forgotten, if he appears very cold to some people, it's because he doesn't want to live his memories through anyone but himself.

"We are very happy, but I know what people are saying about us getting married so soon after Jasmine died. My family still makes comments, still talks about it. I suppose we have offended their conventions."

While some families find the sharing of their loss is a therapy, others prefer to close ranks, to keep away from public gaze.

Mrs Siobhan Lane, widow of Sergeant Noel Lane, stays with her family. Her only contact with her husband's former colleagues was a request to see an Old English sheep dog, similar to her own.

In Barrow-in-Furness, the mother and father of *Daily Express* journalist Philip Geddes also mourn. Described as one of the paper's rising young stars, Philip had been seen in Harrods gift department 10 minutes before the bomb went off. It is believed he left the store to investigate bomb *rumours*.

Thousands of miles across the Atlantic in New Jersey, Mr Gerald Salvesen, whose son Kenneth was working in London when he died in the explosion, watched video film of the first memorial service, sent to him by the Chelsea police.

"Every time he comes to London he pops in here for a chat which could be up to two hours", says Michael Farbrother, Acting Chief Superintendent of Chelsea. "He wants to know everything, how his son died and what happened to the other families. I don't think it's generally known that Kenneth Salveson left a wife, Karen, and a young son. But the whole family is anxious to talk only to us. I shall be sending them a video of the second memorial service."

Then there are the survivors whose afternoon shopping expedition ended in a casualty department. When *they* meet, for a quiet reunion, as they plan to do, their thoughts will be vested not in themselves but focused generously on those who died.

Stockbroker Robert Brown said: "Like everyone else, I have this sense of guilt that I was allowed to live. Having survived that day I now feel part of *a special family*." As a result of the perforated eardrums he sustained in the explosion, Robert finds conversation impossible in a crowd.

Solicitor Sarah Cornish, injured by flying shrapnel, describes herself today as "composed". But she was astonished at how deeply she was affected recently when the Law Courts in which she was working were alerted to a bomb scare in Fleet Street.

And if taxi driver Tony Araniello, from Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, had not been slowed down by traffic as he made his way towards the empty Harrods rank he may have been another victim.

"Now I notice parked cars and wonder if there is anything unusual about them. I notice the parcels passengers bring into the cab. I watch television and remember the feeling that came over me as I saw the pictures of the hotel rubble and the faces of *the survivors from the Brighton* hotel bomb."

But in no one building is the recollection of the Harrods bomb more tangibly ingrained than Chelsea Police Station.

The chief superintendent at Chelsea on December 17 was Peter Ryan, now assistant chief constable of North Yorkshire. "The dreadful day when some of our officers died and others were horribly injured has turned us into a close-knit community. There is something special now about Chelsea Police Station and the people who work there. I love the promotional change of working in a country environment, but I miss the spirit of Chelsea."

It was Sgt William Kane, a Chelsea officer for 15 years, who took the IRA bomb warning call from the Samaritans. It was he who drove the police car carrying Insp Dodd and Sgt Lane to Harrods.

"I *remember the dog handler*, PC John Gordon with Queenie walking towards us, the officers getting out of the car and then everything happened so quickly."

A piece of shrapnel taken from his left eye is a reminder of the drama that followed – the terrorist car exploding, his own car engulfed in flames and his efforts to alert the station. But this year has seen happiness for Sgt Kane. Daughter Nicola celebrated her 21st birthday and married an ice-hockey player.

The missing tip of a left finger is a permanent reminder of Sgt Christopher Stanger's brush with fate. He now looks under cars for possible bombs before getting in. Sgt Andrew Melham, who was blown into a gutter and spent weeks critically ill, admits he does the same.

Sgt Melham had sped to Harrods with PC Martyn Holgate as part of the initial bomb alert. They had been joined by Jane Arbuthnot.

The true shock of the *aftermath* came home to officers in the weeks that followed. Some men came out in spots, others suffered shoulder strain, neck tension and nagging headaches.

With a severe thigh gash on the mend, 23-year-old Martyn Holgate was advised to seek psychiatric help: He was told that talking over the events with others would be the best therapy. Now he has bought a home in Hertfordshire to get away from London on days off. Christopher Stanger, who suffered internal injuries, was initially put on 'light duties', but is now back full-time at Kensington station. Andrew Melham, on the critical list with collapsed lung and back injuries, has made a remarkable recovery and is also back to full-time work.

PC John Gordon, who lost both legs in the attack, fulfilled a personal vow by returning to work last Monday in the administrative department of the dog section. With wife Sheila and sons Andrew and Stuart – *born after his father's* terrible accident – he has moved home, determined to make a new start.

WPC Pamela White, who was talking to Jane Arbuthnot as the bomb exploded, believes December 17 should never be forgotten and has immersed herself in work at Richmond Police Station.

"It could have been me," says Pamela. "Inspector Stephen Dodd was killed too. We must remember them."

The spirit that has drawn together the shopkeepers, housewives and policemen in Chelsea, extends to Harrods itself. The store's chairman, Mr Aleck Craddock, and its general manager, Mr Grahame Brown, whose joint decision not to evacuate the packed store undoubtedly saved hundreds of lives, are both visibly proud of their staff serving this year's Christmas shoppers.

In the Harrods mini-hospital clinic, Sisters Rathy Hariharan and Anne Flanagan agree that no hospital casualty work had prepared them for the scene that day. The two women donned their red security hats and seized packs of first aid dressings as the coded staff alert was relayed through the store by Mr Brown.

Amid the debris of the menswear department, which received the full force of the blast, they tended the injured and accompanied stretchers through Harrods' underground tunnel to the comparative safety of Trevor Square to await ambulances.

A uniformed supervisor trained in first aid, Mr James Diplock, helped comfort PC Gordon while Mr Ron Donmall, divisional manager, emerged unscathed from the wreckage of his office to move shoppers away from the danger of falling glass.

Staff volunteered to work on Sunday sweeping up the debris and dusting the stock. They were back behind their counters at 9am on Monday. Public figures turned up to show their support, and among the first shoppers were Mr and Mrs Arbuthnot.

Christmas trade took a "substantial dip" in the days that followed, but by the Christmas Eve it had begun to improve. The January sale did a record £7.24 million of business and by January 29 Harrods became the first European store to break a £200 million turnover figure for the fiscal year.

And this year's Christmas shoppers are sending Harrods' cash tills ringing with all the indications of a massive present-buying and food-buying spree. The heavy trading pattern began in November with overseas tourists shopping early to take advantage of a weak pound. Harrods has no plans to boost trade further by Sunday opening.

The 12 months which have followed the Harrods bomb have been as remarkable for what has *not* materialized as for every story of fortitude and resilience. Nowhere among the mourning families, the injured and the thousands trapped in a web of events is to be found any admission of hatred for the IRA. It is as though any such admission would only hand a victory to the terrorists – a victory that each victim is determined to deny them.

Remembered in letters of gold

A fund set up to help families of the dead and critically injured has raised £310,000. The Knightsbridge Fund was administered by House of Fraser as a trust. Trustees included Lord Tonypandy (chairman), Geoffrey Dear, assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard; and Councillor Mrs Joan Hanham, mayor of Kensington and Chelsea at the time of the bombing.

Initial payments of £1,000 were made to each family, and the trustees made further payments if needed, considering particularly the welfare of children.

Next year, a memorial stone dedicated to the three dead police officers will be unveiled outside Harrods, near the spot where the bomb exploded. It has been paid for, and will be erected by the Police Memorial Fund, founded this year by film director Michael Winner. The granite stone standing 4ft 6ins high, has cost about £5,000. The names of the police officers and the Metropolitan Police badge are inscribed in gold on the stone.

Money to the Police Memorial Fund now stands at £45,000, and donations have been received from the Metropolitan Police, Harrods, the Home Secretary Leon Brittan, Sir Keith Joseph and Elton John.

Permission has been given by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the slim memorial stone to be erected on the pavement in Hans Crescent next to one of the Harrods stone pillars.

New life: Nigel Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick, now remarried, with his son James



Harrods staff: Nurse Anne Flanagan; divisional manager Ron Donmall; nurse Rathy Hariharan and James Diplock outside the store



Back at work: PC Martyn Holgate, Sgt Andrew Melham, Sgt Christopher Stanger and Sgt William Kane. There is a new close-knit spirit at Chelsea



Close family: Maureen Dodd and children Anthony (12), Melanie (10) and Suzanne (8)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 521)

ACROSS
1 Ci devant (6)
5 Amulets (6)
8 Fire residue (3)
9 Search out (6)
10 Be imminent (6)
11 Indigo (4)
12 Out of use (8)
14 Offensive (6)
17 Inadequate (6)
19 Pliocene "elephant" (8)
22 Auction (4)
24 Writing desk (6)
25 Humid (6)
26 Brassiere (3)
27 Innate aptitude (6)
28 Card dealer (6)

DOWN
2 Music building (5)
3 Sour cherry (7)
4 Soldier's food (7)
5 Crisps (5)
6 Dismay (5)
7 Studio TV (7)
13 Metal-bearing rock (3)
15 Vampire count (7)
16 World govt body (1,1,1)
17 Small taxi (7)
18 Desist (7)
20 Not those (5)
21 Uncertainty (5)
23 Lord love me (5)

SOLUTION TO No 520
ACROSS: 8 Establishment 9 Tin 10 Orientate 11 Psalm 13 Maillot 16 Rubella 19 Cuffs 22 Salad days 24 Ire 25 Rightful owner
DOWN: 1 Pent-up 2 Stanza 3 Abnormal 4 Cilium 5 Chin 6 Befall 7 Attest 12 Sou 14 Incision 15 Off 16 Rosary 17 Beluga 18 Abacus 20 Friend 21 Shears 23 Dote

Santa's delights for devious drivers

moreover... Miles Kington

Can't think what to give your friends for Christmas? Then your problems are over! Moreover Motorists' Mart offers stunning new ideas for gifts for your car-driving circle. No dangle dollies or driving gloves here – these are all genuinely new items on the market.

Inflatable Chauffeur: Previously available only in Northern Ireland, where it is bad form to leave a car empty, the inflatable chauffeur can now solve most of your short-term parking problems. Do you have to park on a yellow line or in a forbidden area? Then just inflate your plastic chauffeur (complete with peaked cap and adhesive gloves) and put him at the wheel. When you come back, the traffic warden will still be shouting at him through the window! Also suitable for Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Miller Howe Hotel etc. From £68.

Football Scarves: Do you want people to avoid you on the motorway? Then hang well-*known football supporters'* scarves out of your window and watch everyone else drive on to the hard shoulder to get out of the way. Clubs available include Chelsea, Manchester United, Chelsea, Chelsea, Spurs and Chelsea. £10 each.

Yellow Clamp: Did you know that the police will not put a clamp on a car which has already been clamped? So put your own clamp on first, and they will leave you alone! Buy our bright yellow aluminium clamp and baffle the boys in blue. Only £70. Solid gold version £70,000. We also offer a 24-hour lost key service.

Phone Security: If you have a phone in your car, there is always the chance that people *might break in and use it.* But they won't if your car has already been vandalised - so use our fake phone vandal kit! Includes torn-up directory, broken glass, empty cider bottle, dangling light bulb and wide range of graffiti (eg. "BENN HAS GONE SOFT" and "RITA, NEW MODEL, 246 8091"). Makes your car look like an antique phone box! Complete kit £27.

Diplomatic Parking: The ultimate in trouble-free parking. It looks like a black cut-out of the letter D. And that's what it is! Because if you insert the letter D in the middle of your registration number, your parking problems will disappear overnight. Ask any Nigerian. Only £6. Fitting and lengthening £80 extra.

Shattered Screen Effect: No traffic warden would victimize *a car that had genuinely broken* down - especially not one that had a shattered windscreen. Now, with our roll-on shattered screen effect, you can guarantee exemption every time. Simply lay it across your windscreen to give it that distinctive fragmented feel. Not illegal. Dodgy, but not illegal. £48. Bloodstains £15 extra.

A Bicycle: The ultimate in motorists' presents - a form of transport which is cheaper and quicker than a car, and almost impossible to be found drunk in charge of.

هكذا من الاصل

FRIDAY PAGE

How Sonia learned to be a Gandhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi's murder has turned the spotlight onto her son Rajiv and his wife Sonia. As elections loom Michael Hamlyn, our correspondent in India, reports on the changes in Sonia's life

The beef of Calcutta is renowned in India as the finest quality available in the country. The Muslim butchers there have a reputation second to none and when Sonia Gandhi, the Italian daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, telephoned her Muslim friends to come over for a beef barbecue no-one was much surprised.

Her Hindu husband Rajiv, then merely a pilot for Indian Airlines, had flown back from Calcutta with a special sample of the city's produce. No religious Hindu, of course, would have anything to do with the stuff but in those days Rajiv was not to be regarded as such. His father was a Parsee and since the only way of becoming a Parsee is to have a Parsee father, he could excuse such a heterodox diet by disclaiming religious inhibition.

Not any more. Now that he is Prime Minister himself, he has made every effort to appear a regular Kashmiri brahmin like his mother and grandfather.

The funeral ceremony he conducted for his mother, witnessed by millions of Indians on Indian television as well as by hundreds of millions around the world, was firmly based on the Vedic rites of the Hindu religion. On the first day of his election campaign he went to the holiest Hindu city, Varanasi, to pay his respects to Lord Shiva at the Golden Temple beside the River Ganges.

His wife, meanwhile, is doing her best to appear as much like a good and dutiful Hindu wife as it is possible for an Italian to be. She never appears in public these days without her head demurely covered with the palla, the free end of her sari. Gone are the days when she shopped with her friends at boutiques in smart south Delhi where manufacturers exporting to the West display their wares.

She no longer sports the long boots and chunky sweaters that kept her Latin blood warm in the chill of a Delhi December, and she is never seen in the *kurta* and *churidar*, the tunic and narrow trousers that many westerners affect when sporting Indian dress.

"The Prime Minister's wife has very firm ideas on what she should or should not do," said a senior official in Mr Gandhi's office, and added with obvious approval: "She absolutely does not see any journalists, nor does anybody close to her speak about her."

In any Indian social function you are likely to find the men standing at one end of the room talking of politics or share prices and the women sitting separately at the other end discussing more domestic concerns. The same thing happens in Italy today so the social arrangements will not have come as a total surprise to the former Miss Sonia Maino.

Sonia was born 36 years ago, the daughter of a small businessman from Orbassano, near Turin. She was in Cambridge to improve her English and found herself sitting across from darkly handsome Rajiv Gandhi. They fell in love.

The elder son of the Indian Prime Minister had been found a place at Trinity College, where Lord Butler was Master, thanks to the Butler family's connection with Uttar Pradesh where the Nehru family first came to prominence.

In fact Rajiv's stay on the banks of the river Cam was otherwise less than successful and a tactful withdrawal was permitted soon afterwards. A spell at Imperial College in London provided no further proof of intellectual ability in the future leader of his country and a second withdrawal took him to the Pilots' School in Bangalore where he trained to fly Indian Airline Boeings.

In the meantime he told his mother of his intentions towards Sonia. Mrs Gandhi was not pleased. The Indian political community is particularly sensitive to allegations of foreign influence at the heart of government and for the Prime Minister's son to have a foreign bride could have been an electoral liability.

She advised a cooling off period. But when it ended with the couple's fervour for each other undiminished she allowed the marriage to go ahead. After all Rajiv had no political ambitions. Indeed, he claimed total lack of interest in politics.

After the marriage and the birth of a daughter and a son, Priyanka and Rahul, the couple became one of the more decorative pairs on the glossy upper class circuit in Delhi. Sonia was featured in the fashionable magazines as one of the jet-set.

"It was all wrong," says one of her friends from those days. "She was never one for dancing and celebrating in public. She has always been a domestic type." Another friend says: "She is actually very quiet, shy and sensitive. Her whole life has always revolved around Rajiv and the children."

These qualities and her culinary abilities also endeared her to her mother-in-law. "Mrs Gandhi liked Italian food," says a constant visitor to the Prime Minister's house in those days. "I think it reminded her of her own days in Europe. Sonia is very domestic and even grows her own herbs. She often used to give little pots of basil as presents."

The comparison between Mrs Gandhi's two daughters-in-law has been quite striking. Sanjay's wife, and now widow, Menaka, who came from a straight-laced Sikh military family, turned out to be a disappointment, falling out terminally with Mrs Gandhi and setting up a party in opposition to her. The foreigner Sonia, meanwhile, of whom Mrs Gandhi was so suspicious in the beginning rapidly became the favourite – the daughter Mrs Gandhi never had. A friend says: "I don't think Mrs Gandhi could have loved anyone as much as Sonia".



Sonia Gandhi, now at home in a sari. Right, arriving with husband Rajiv and family for Indira Gandhi's last rites before cremation

When Mrs Gandhi was shot it was Sonia, crying "Mummy, Mummy!", who rushed her into a waiting ambassador car and cradled her head on the way to hospital. At the time there was a fully-equipped ambulance standing by, as there always is at the Prime Minister's residence, but no one thought to use it until after the event. In the end the ambulance was used to take the wounded assassin to hospital.

"When Mrs Gandhi was shot it was Sonia crying 'Mummy, Mummy' who rushed her into a car and cradled her head on the way to hospital"

When Sanjay Gandhi died in a flying accident Mrs Gandhi's worst fears had been realised and the glossy couple from the Delhi social register had to become politically involved. It meant a number of sacrifices on Sonia's part.

Her children were taken away from their schools so as not to endanger other children by their proximity. The kitchen Hindi she had picked up was developed into a political tool to enable her to address women's rallies in her husband's constituency. Her Italian nationality became a political issue. The fact that she travelled on an Indian passport, though technically she was still Italian, was raised in Parliament. Last year she finally became an Indian citizen.

If any Italian company ever wins a government contract someone always manages to attribute it to Sonia's influence. The Italian community in Delhi, in a deliberate move to protect itself against this kind of canard, has now distanced itself from her. Her sister Nadia who was married to a Spanish diplomat serving in Delhi has been transferred with her husband elsewhere.

A friend says: "She once said to me: 'Just between you and me, I hope I never live to see the day when Rajiv goes into politics.' But really she has always tried to do whatever her husband wanted – just like a good Hindu wife."

Deliver me from the deadly British letter-box



If you ever find yourself up an unmade road on a wet day with a copy of the 1984 London South Yellow Pages under your arm in a flimsy polythene bag do not, whatever you do, allow the neck of that bag to point in any direction but upwards. If you do, the tome will slip out like so much wet fish and land, face down and open, in a puddle of brown water.

I know whereof I speak because for the greater part of last week (or so it seems) I have been delivering that brightly coloured volume from door to South London door. An indignity for one in my position but, because this unfortunately involves having to live mostly off a real-world (ie, non-journalistic) income, when I hear of a good thing – or what sounds like a nice little earner – I am inclined to exclaim, "Okay, let's go!" Delivering Yellow Pages? A cinch, surely.

You probably thought, as I did, that the Post Office or British Telecom or whoever were responsible for this task. They were, but are no more. The job has been, as they say, privatized and taken over by a company which seems determined to bring to the distribution of Yellow Pages a novel and quite awe-inspiring punctilio.

The result of their scrupulous attention to detail is that the house-to-house distributor has to set out armed with enormous batches of cards bearing the names and addresses of the individual punters (which wash off in the rain), other cards for pushing through the letter-box when nobody answers the door, pens for losing and between times marking these cards after a complicated system, several hundred "polybags", and, of course, the Yellow Pages themselves.



Most of this I learned only when it was too late to back out. But I had a friend with an unusually roomy car (capacity upward of 400 London Souths) and the remnant of an atavistic fancy that it might have been rather fun to be a postman. The last few days have put paid to that.

Consider, for example, the letter-box. Leaving aside the difficulties of locating the damned things (they can be *anywhere*) and the fact that they are invariably too small to accommodate anything bulkier than the latest Prize Draw offer, the really dreadful thing about them is their sheer brute strength.

The average suburban letter-box is kept shut by coiled industrial-strength springs and once you have overcome these, by the simple expedient of shredding three fingers, you are invariably faced with a *second* flap of even greater ferocity. Anything as flimsy as a Yellow Pages calling-card, is liable to end up concertinaed and bloodstained in the innards of the machine. Surely no more effective device for keeping letters out of a house was ever conceived.

Then there is the "glazed porchway", as estate agents call it. Nothing wrong with this in itself, and very useful for ripening tiny green tomatoes, but you would be amazed how many people equip their glazed porchways with a Yale lock but no letter-box, no knocker, no bell. There is the long driveway, too, righty accursed among the door-to-door classes for its doubling of time and effort. Why will the British not adopt the American-style mail box?

There are the security-conscious blocks of flats where you have to stab 10 buttons in turn before eventually a voice crackles out of the grille and you have a split second to shove the door open.

I shall view the postman with increased sympathy and respect from now on. Yet, for all its hardships, there is something to be said for the door-to-door life, if only as sociological groundwork. I thought at least I knew my own suburb but I found it to be a demographic jigsaw of quite extraordinary complexity and variety, with almost every social class and income level represented, all rubbing shoulders with each other.

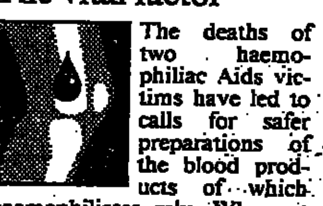
Within one small street you find houses semi-derelict, others with front gardens given over to car-breaking and mud-pie manufacture, others immaculate in fresh paint, "coach lamps" and Hoovered greenery. The ingrained individualism of the English is most apparent in what appear to be the most regimented streetscapes but where no two of anything are ever, in fact, the same.

The moment of supreme felicity, however, is when you press an ordinary-looking doorbell and are serenaded with the opening bars of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, *The Stars and Stripes* or the *Ode to Joy* (arr Stockhausen). Suddenly it all seems worth while – the aching feet (if only your fingers could do the walking), the semi-dislocated arms, the soggy shoes, the tedium.

It may be too much work for too little money – but you do see life.

Nigel Andrew

The vital factor



The deaths of two haemophiliac Aids victims have led to calls for safer preparations of the blood products of which haemophiliates rely. Why not just stop using factor VIII? The difficulty is that haemophilia is a life-threatening condition in itself.

The disease results from a genetic defect carried by women but affecting men. It leaves the sufferer with reduced levels of the vital blood clotting factor, factor VIII, and in severe cases the lack of factor VIII can lead to severe spontaneous bleeding into the joints and soft tissues.

The consequences can be devastating. The average haemophiliac bleeds 35 times a year and affected children may bleed several times a week. Bleeding into the joints – most often the knee or elbow – causes inflammation and destroys the cartilage at the end of the bone.

The development of factor VIII concentrate changed all that. Now haemophiliacs can inject factor VIII into themselves to stop bleeding.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, Dr Peter Jones from Newcastle's Haemophilia Centre told how 15 years ago a severe bleed into a joint would have meant three weeks in hospital.

Dr Jones could only conclude that the risks of not taking factor VIII still outweigh the risk of contracting Aids. He recommended, as does the Haemophilia Society that haemophiliacs continue to use the factor.

Even so doctors are trying to minimize the risk of Aids. Children under four now receive cryoprecipitate instead of factor VIII. This is made from the blood of fewer donors and is less likely to be contaminated.

Age old problem

By old age most people are suffering from memory loss if not showing classic dementia signs. The fact that not everyone is affected – has lead to the idea that dementia need not be part of ageing. One theory is that it could be caused by a virus. A prime suspect is herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV1), which causes cold sores. It is known to infect nervous tissue and cold sore sufferers are well aware of this when sunlight, stress or simply being rundown, activates the virus in nerve cells of the skin causing a painful sore. HSV1 can even cause a serious life-threatening encephalitis.

Around 90 per cent of us come across HSV1, generally in early childhood.

Could the virus lie dormant in brain tissue. So far there is no conclusive proof. Dr Richard Sutton at the Withington Hospital, Manchester, has found evidence of HSVT in brain tissue from people whose immune systems had been suppressed to treat cancer and in tissue from the temporal lobe of the brain of a chronic epileptic.

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Christmas tradition: but treat trees with care

Pretty but dangerous

An eye specialist has warned of an unexpected seasonal hazard – injuries from Christmas trees. Mr John Brazier, of Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, wrote in last week's *Lancet* of 15 patients treated in the hospital's casualty department between December 1983 and February 1984.

All but two patients were hurt by real trees. The most common damage was a scratch to the surface of the eye, the cornea, caused by a branch. One man was injured taking his tree from a car, seven were either putting the trees in pots or decorating them, and four were taking them down. Most victims' treatment was straightforward and their eyes healed well.

Two patients had recurrent problems – quite common after scratches from plants or fingernails. The symptoms of recurrent erosion of the corneal epithelium – which may continue periodically over months or years – include blurred vision, pain, redness, watering and aching when looking at light. These symptoms usually occur in the morning and can be treated with creams last thing at night.

So if you are involved in a fracas with your tree this year Mr Brazier's advice is to do nothing for an hour or so. Even if your eye waters and feels sore do not wash it with anything but leave your tears to flush out any foreign body that may have lodged there. Most trivial injuries heal themselves.

If the pain and watering continue for more than a couple of hours go to a casualty department where you will be examined and probably given an antibiotic ointment.

Hangovers are a more predictable Christmas hazard – and there is no cure. Drinking slowly, making sure you eat as well as drink, and taking pints of water after a party go some way towards preventing one, but too much smoke and too little sleep can make matters worse.

In general, alcohol will burn up at the rate of an hour for every unit drunk (a unit is one half pint of beer, a glass of wine or pub measure of spirits).

Stick to dry white wine if you want to avoid a hangover, and steer clear of brandy and cognac. Extra constituents which give flavour and colour to these heavier drinks can be toxic in large quantities. They are broken down in a different way to alcohol and are often responsible for the worst hangovers.

Absinth had to be banned in the last century in France because one of the main ingredients – oil of thujone – was too poisonous. You can be sure that a glass or more of that would have been felt the next morning.

Calming down the children



Exhausted parents may claim, with an undercurrent of pride, that their five-year-old is "hyperactive" when in reality the offspring is very bright, energetic, unusually curious and plain naughty. However, hyperactivity can be serious. Children who are restless, find it impossible to concentrate for more than a few seconds and have difficulty learning at school may be diagnosed as suffering from hyperkinetic syndrome and require treatment with drugs. About one in 1,000 children are diagnosed in Britain although this may underestimate the problem. Dr. Eric Taylor of the Institute of Psychiatry believes one in 200 may suffer.

In the US there are about half a million children – five per cent taking drugs.

In less extreme cases hyperactivity may say more about what parents can tolerate: a problem for one family may be perfectly acceptable to another. Difficulties may be first recognised when a nursery teacher tells parents their child is too boisterous and disruptive for other children.

Some children may calm down if not over-stimulated. Bedrooms can be painted in subdued colours, for example. Others may benefit from rewards for concentrating on a task. It is thought some children benefit from a reduction in artificial colouring and food additives in their diet.

Spot the cure

Skin specialists now believe all acne sufferers can be offered some improvement – if not total cure. Only around 10 per cent of teenagers get through adolescence spot-free. A further 20 per cent develop the odd spot which doesn't worry them, and 40 per cent turn to the chemist's counter.

A number of factors contribute to the condition. The main cause is an over-reaction of the skin's sebaceous glands to male hormones circulating in the bloodstream (women have small amounts of these too). This produces an oily subum and the sebaceous gland ducts become thickened and blocked. Finally bacterial infection sets in, causing inflammation.

Often the teenager with a mild case of acne will suddenly find that his or her skin gets worse when they hit 16-18. In boys acne has usually burned itself out by the early 20s although in some women it can grumble on into the 30s.

Mild cases may respond to topical preparations such as benzoyl peroxide, which can be bought at the chemist, or Retin A, for which a prescription is needed. Moderate to severe acne will need oral antibiotics, probably for around six months. Most people's complaint will be considerably improved after this and although many will relapse, most teenagers will only need one or more long course of antibiotics (or possibly a low dose on antibiotics every day).

If the antibiotics don't work there are two alternatives. Girls can be given Diane, which blocks the effects of any circulating male hormones and which also acts as a contraceptive. Boys and girls can be given Roaccutane, which acts directly on the sebaceous glands and is 90 per cent successful.

Both peparations have potential side effects. Girls taking either preparation must not be or become pregnant. This is especially important for girls on Roaccutane which can cause, malformed babies.

Safer screens



Fears that working with visual display units (VDUs) during pregnancy may lead to miscarriages or cause handicapped babies may be assuaged by a study in Finland of 1,475 mothers, some of malformed babies. Problems with the central nervous system, troubles with the mouth and face, physical deformities of the spine and limbs, and heart defects were included in the study.

Of the total, 108 had worked on a VDU in early pregnancy: 50 had handicapped babies, 58 had not. Results reported in the Lancet last week, showed that a comparison of mothers exposed to VDUs for at least four hours a day with those not exposed at all did not confirm previous claims that radiation from a VDU causes birth defects.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser



THE TIMES DIARY

From Grand to gracious

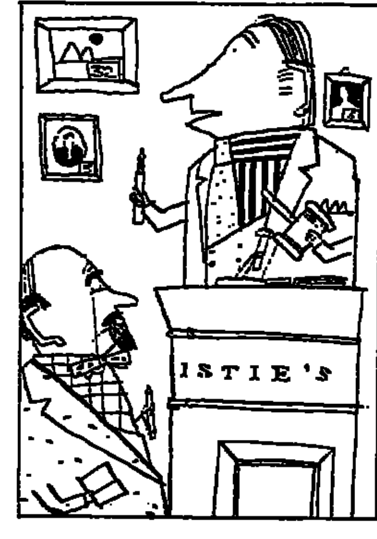
Leaked details of the security report into the Brighton bombing, now being drawn up by Hampshire's deputy chief constable, John Hoddinott, reveal that the Cabinet will never again be accommodated in a party conference HQ hotel. Instead, I am told, it will be recommended that the Cabinet be housed separately in a stately home nearby. According to my source the Conservative Party could not afford to split up the Cabinet – "It would probably cost about £100,000 to go into the hotel about four days in advance and strip all the wall panelling and lift floorboards." Security was very strong during Heath's term in the early Seventies, but I understand it was toned down because of his objection to the heavy presence of police dogs, horses, uniformed officers and marked police cars.

● Mrs Thatcher must be looking forward to Christmas. She told members of the Commons aviation committee what she plans to read – not a novel, not a biography, but the nine-volume, 2,600-page report on London's third airport.

Klein wonder

Although punters claim the Royal dress designers David and Elizabeth Emanuel are favourites for the job of designing the new British Airways uniforms, I happen to know it will be Roland Klein. When the name of French-born Roland Klein is announced after Christmas the one man who should button up is Sir Terence Conran, the Habitat-Mothercare chief who berated British Airways for appointing a foreign firm to design its new aircraft livery. Sir Terence may not know that his son Jasper Conran was approached to submit his uniform designs – and politely told BA to get lost.

BARRY FANTONI



"Lot 38: one unique stripped pine dresser by Sir Terence Conran, purchased on a Sunday"

One in the eye

Mrs Thatcher's eye surgeon Richard Packard was sent an SOS by Union Carbide last week to fly to Bhopal in India to attend to the victims of the gas disaster. Packard was only too keen. He rearranged his appointments and brought forward an operation scheduled for this week. Bags packed, he suddenly received a call saying Union Carbide had changed their minds – they wanted an all-American team instead. Also left in the lurch were five other eminent British surgeons, including King's College lung specialist John Costello, who was busy packaging a drugs consignment for the victims when he was told to forget it. As bemused as anyone was Peter Veazey, London agent of Union Carbide's relief agency, SOS International, who had tracked down the specialists and booked the flights. "Union Carbide were running around like chickens with their heads cut off", he said. "They probably thought they had more control over their own people". His bill, together with the British consultants', is on its way to the US.

Airport runaway

Questions are to be asked in the Commons on why an international airport built on the tiny Caribbean island of Providenciales two years ago at a cost of £6.1m to the British taxpayer has closed to jets. The runway has to be resealed, at a further cost of more than £250,000, because, according to Norman Saunders, chief minister of the British dependency, "the British government built it on the cheap." Adding to the government's embarrassment, the Club Mediterranée village for which the airport was built is opening only next week, two years late. Indeed, the French-owned Club Med had to be threatened with legal action by Timothy Raison before it started building. "It is staggering that the airport has already closed to jets before the Club Med has even opened," said Labour MP Eric Deakins, who is to lodge a Commons question and demand an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee. The closure of the airport will give further ammunition to critics of the project who, when they accused the Government of "fiddling the figures", were told by the Foreign Office that original estimates had risen £2m because of the fall in the pound "and a runway surfacing problem".

PHS

Jobs: let's follow Reagan's lead

by Graham Mather

The United States has a number of features which British ministers would like to emulate. It has an entrenched free enterprise culture. It has in President Reagan a populist and successful leader, of a Republican Party bursting with grass-roots enthusiasm, firmly committed to radical economic policies.

Above all, it has jobs. The US Chamber of Commerce has said that since the third instalment of President Reagan's tax cuts, following his 1981 Economic Recovery Act, the US economy has generated 6½ million new jobs: 880,000 in May alone. Last month, with slower growth, the number rose by another 300,000.

British business has been investing heavily in the acquisition of US subsidiaries. A common language, similar commercial law and confidence in long-term economic performance are in part responsible. But British businessmen have also shown an increasing readiness to emulate US business practice: in performance-related pay systems, strengthened employee involvement and participation, and company unions.

So it is surprising that Whitehall finds itself much more reluctant to learn from US experience. Mrs Thatcher's Atlanticism, expressed at this year's Conservative conference when she declared to considerable applause that "This party is pro-American", does not find much of an echo in departmental corridors. Successful Americans can be unpopular. The IMF's heavy-handed interventions to retrieve the British economy in the 1970s are well remembered by civil servants.

In British domestic policy-making there are few enough structures to facilitate detailed comparison and evaluation of EEC, let alone American, initiatives. It serves little in political terms to remind constituents that the same reviews of welfare spending, the same reexamination of demographic trends and tax burdens, even the same moves away from branded drugs on prescription, are being undertaken in one industrialized democracy after another.

Yet American examples can prove highly helpful. US "right to work" states offer model legal frameworks which proved invaluable in reworking British trade union law. US counties and municipalities have privatized and contracted out services for years and have produced what they would call "bug-free" systems.

With strongly felt concern about unemployment among both businessmen and Conservative backbenchers, the imperative to learn from US job creation experience is becoming stronger. At the same time, the evidence that the Reagan boom has not been a cynical neo-Keynesian reflation is growing. The 1981 US tax cuts have broadened the tax base, stimulated business investment and led to a surge in venture capital investment, up in 1983 by 56 per cent over 1982.

President Reagan's firm refusal to contemplate tax increases as a means of reducing the budget deficit proved an election winner against a Mondale package which closely resembled that of some Conservative wets: higher spending, increased taxation and federal job creation schemes. More importantly, the Reagan tax-cutting policy has mobilized an unprecedented consensus behind the reductions of scores of federal spending programmes now proposed. Debate in the US today focuses on the details of implementation rather than the need for the savings.

US tax cuts have been seen to create jobs and prove a powerful election winner. Spending cuts are now seen as inevitable to maintain the progress. As Nigel Lawson faces backbench pressure to increase spending in the name of job creation, the US lessons may prove helpful, and may encourage an increased propensity in Whitehall to turn its eyes towards what is, after all, the world's clearest model of an enterprise economy.

The author is head of the policy unit of the Institute of Directors.

Whither Mitterrand? Diana Geddes on the search for new ideas

C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas le socialisme



Paris

With only 15 months to go before the parliamentary elections, the French Socialist Party is desperately looking for a new purpose and direction for its badly demoralized troops. At the party's national convention in Paris this weekend its leaders will seek to launch a new offensive around the theme of "modernization and social progress". But there are doubts whether it is a slogan to set the nation on fire.

One problem is that the Socialists have simply run out of projects. They did a lot when they first came to power – abolishing the death penalty; introducing a 39-hour week and a fifth week's paid holiday; increasing social security benefits, pensions and the minimum wage; setting decentralization in process; nationalizing the banks and key industrial companies; introducing new rights for workers; providing free abortion.

Now they no longer have a grand, specifically socialist, project around which to rally their supporters. The party leaders say the economic crisis leaves them little room for manoeuvre, but some people think that is simply an excuse to cover up a dearth of new ideas, or even an indication of a fundamental and permanent shift of the party away from its socialist goals.

Gone forever are the heady days after the Socialists' landslide victory in 1981 when heads would roll and a glorious era of social justice and happiness for all was to be ushered in. People really did believe that life would be markedly different; hence their feelings now of betrayal and bitterness. The disillusionment would still have been there, only less deep, had there been no economic recession.

Expectations in 1981 were exaggeratedly high among the party faithful as well. "We had little real experience of power and therefore too great a degree of self-illusion," Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, admitted recently. Most Socialists now accept the need for the Government's new economic pragmatism but dislike intensely many of its effects, and differ deeply over its desired duration and ultimate aim.

Some see the present period of economic rigour as simply an unpleasant stage which must be passed through as quickly as possible before getting back to the real business of socializing society and completing the break with capitalism. Others, however, believe that rigour and the shift in Socialist attitudes is more or less here to stay.

There is a growing realization that changing society will necessarily be a slow process. Asked recently if the French Socialists were turning into social democrats, Jean Poperen, the number two in the party, said: "If one means by social democracy that we reject the theory of revolutionary change, that we believe that change in a society as complex as ours has to be by regular stages and that this implies a long period of mixed economy, then we are indeed social democrats."

President Mitterrand has also recently been emphasizing the need for a long-term view. "The man who plants a tree in the hope of one day lying in its shade must have patience," he commented in a magazine interview last month.

"My socialism," he explained, "is quite simply the search for a true political, economic and social democracy. This means more freedom, more responsibility and more knowledge for everyone; the control by the nation of the great means of production; a just distribution of profits; an unshakeable national solidarity; and the end of class privileges." That was more the kind of ideological stuff many party faithful wanted to hear. But was it all just talk?

What is the government doing, for example, to eradicate the scandal of the so-called *nouveaux pauvres*, those for whom the state has failed to provide any form of financial safety net and who therefore literally find themselves without a roof over their head or a bite to eat? Why is the government cutting corporate and income tax instead of helping them? Is that what was meant by the just distribution of profits? Can the new emphasis on competition and selection in education really help hasten the end of class privilege?

Worst of all, why is nothing more being done to prevent what the government itself has referred to as the scourge of unemployment? The Socialists came to power promising to reduce unemployment, but the number out of work has gone up by more than 500,000 and continues to rise at an alarming rate. Industrial modernization, the government's new catch-word, is widely seen as synonymous with mass redundancies rather than new jobs.

So what hope can the Socialists offer to their supporters and to the country as a whole? "We are not going to re-do the nationalization, decentralization or Auroux (labour) laws every year simply out of principle. We cannot storm the Bastille all the time," Laurent Fabius, the prime minister, commented last month. Instead, he proposed a brand of socialism which lay somewhere between a totally free market and a state-controlled economy.

"We must modernize industrial plant, develop dialogue and innovation between the employers and the unions, link schools and industry, support research, free initiative, accelerate the growth of a technological Europe..." he said. But where was the socialism in all of that? Why should not the right be able to do the same, only better, with its years of experience in government and its close relations with employers?

Platitudes about greater social justice and a fairer distribution of goods are not enough: people want acts, not words. Confidence in the Socialists' ability to tackle the country's problems has fallen to a record low. The debacle over Chad, and now the uneasy situation in New Caledonia, has not helped. The flurry of excitement caused in the summer by the appointment of a new young prime minister is already wearing off.

The left has suffered one electoral defeat after another since it came to power. Its 14-point lead over the right in the 1981 parliamentary elections has now been turned into a 20-point lead for the opposition. The Socialists themselves (without the Communists and other minor left-wing parties) obtained only 20 per cent of the vote in the European elections this summer, their lowest level since 1973. Virtually every weekend brings news of a new humiliation in some local by-election. The Socialists are now steeling themselves for another drubbing in the cantonal elections next March.

Some Socialists are beginning to talk openly for the first time about the possibility of losing the parliamentary elections in 1986. It was not appreciated when M Jospin commented in a recent interview with *Le Monde*: "I tell our members that they should not worry about 1986. You can always be beaten in a democracy. Let us continue to do what we believe to be just, and pursue a policy with a perspective beyond 1986." M Jospin has since smartly changed his tack.

Not all Socialists believe that defeat is inevitable, however. They point out that if their ranks are in disarray, so are those of the opposition. Furthermore, they say, the opposition can propose no more palatable a medicine to cure the nation's economic ills. They cling to the hope that when confronted by a real change of government rather than a local or European election, the electorate will not indulge in an abstention or protest vote, but will vote to keep the right out of power.

Despite their party's poor rating in the opinion polls, three Socialists, Michel Rocard, minister of agriculture, Laurent Fabius and Jacques Delors, the former finance minister, all rate higher in the popularity stakes than the three main opposition leaders, Chirac, Barre and Giscard d'Estaing.

Other Socialists try to keep up their spirits with the hope that, given the introduction of a good dose of proportional representation, an economic upturn and a certain amount of luck, the Socialists could still find themselves the largest single party in parliament, and as such in a position to form a coalition with one or more of the other parties on the centre right. For the moment, however, even the most tentative overtures in that direction are being rejected out of hand. What happens after 1986 remains an open door.

Pressing playback before pressing charges

The current focus on the miners' dispute has overshadowed a quiet but significant experiment in police practice which could lead to a major safeguard of citizens' rights.

It is less than a year since field trials began to record police interrogations on tape and test what the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure deemed a necessary reform to the criminal justice system. Judging by the first tentative findings of the Home Office research unit, published today, the technique is working.

Despite initial reservations police are cooperating and not – as in some earlier Scottish experiments – trying to circumvent the procedure by conducting interviews away from police stations. Police compliance appears to have been almost absolute, with nearly all interviews recorded that the project's steering committee – a group of police, judges, lawyers and government officials – judged necessary.

First results also show no evidence that there is any "systematic avoidance". And despite police fears, there is no evidence that tape recording inhibits suspects from confessing or making damaging admissions, nor any decrease in the amount of information obtained about other offences.

It is too soon to judge the effects of tape recording on court hearings in terms of length and the type of plea. But one benefit is already emerging: interviews with suspects have become less frequent and shorter, supporting the view that the system imposes a greater discipline on interviewing practices. The interviews can also be more spontaneous, with police relieved of the need for laborious note-taking.

There are still teething problems, however. One is the extent to which police are prepared to involve solicitors. Solicitors seem to have participated in about 5 per cent of interviews, compared with an estimated 15 to 20 per cent of suspects who ask to see a solicitor. In some stations, notably Holborn (which includes the fraud squad), solicitor participation has been particularly low. But the problem may be resolved when the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, with its statutory right of access to solicitors and duty solicitor scheme, comes into force.

The idea of tape recording developed with the growing distrust among juries of police evidence, which was increasingly challenged in court. It was felt that taping, as an independent verification, could significantly reduce the number of challenges and disputes over accuracy.

The proposal has been controversial. There was widespread concern over the Royal Commission's proposal that, because of likely cost, police should record only a summary of the interview and the statements taken at the end. It estimated a total cost of some £6.5m a year, but 80 per cent of this would be accounted for by transcription. The Government subsequently accepted that the whole interview should be taped, with transcripts made only where there is strict need.

The steering committee drew up guidelines. A specially constructed machine is used which records two cassettes simultaneously. They are unwrapped and inserted in the suspect's presence and at the end of the interview one is sealed, and thereafter may be opened only on the court's authority. The other is a working copy which the officer may use to write up the statement he has to make of the interview summarizing the relevant parts, and from which copies can be made – for instance for the defence. Recording is on one track only, with a time-coded security device on the other to guard against tampering.

All interviews with suspects cautioned for indictable offences, triable either-way offences (at Crown or magistrates' court) and some serious summary offences are recorded. Exemptions, such as where the suspect is at risk (juvenile or mentally handicapped) need the authority of a senior police officer.

The field trials will last two years with national implementation, if they are judged a success, not before 1987. But so far the signs are all favourable. As David Roberts, a member of the Law Society steering committee, puts it, taping may increase the guilty plea rate (and hence cut the Crown court backlog) and reduce the number of complaints against police. Above all it could outlaw oppressive questioning, imposing on courts a more robust role in deciding if interviews were so conducted as to render them inadmissible as evidence.

Frances Gibb

Legal affairs correspondent

David Watt

Six shots across the hawks' prow

A most remarkable war of words is now in progress between the American Secretary of State George Shultz and his colleague – and rival – Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence. It is well worth watching, not only because the arguments themselves are important, but because the debate represents an institutional as well as a personal struggle over the direction of American foreign policy in Reagan's second term.

Let us take up the story on November 28, when Mr Weinberger made a major speech in the most public possible forum – the National Press Club in Washington. It was, in a way, a surprising pronouncement from a man whose reputation has been for hawkishness. For, shorn of a certain amount of ritual nonsense about President Reagan's strong decisive leadership, it amounted to a powerful plea for a much more limited and precise use of American military power than most post-war American administrations, not least Reagan's, have envisaged, threatened and occasionally employed.

Certainly, Weinberger attacks the out and out minimalists – those, as he says, who "while they may maintain that military force has a role in foreign policy are never willing to name the circumstance or the place where it would apply". His counterbalance to this assault on neo-isolationism is more significant and unexpected: "The second alternative – employing our forces almost indiscriminately and as a regular and customary part of our diplomatic efforts – would surely plunge us headlong into the sort of domestic turmoil we experienced during the Vietnam War, without accomplishing the goal for which we committed our forces. Such policies might very well tear at the fabric of our society, endangering the single most critical element of a successful democracy: a strong concensus of support and agreement for our basic purposes."

Having set these limits, Weinberger then proceeds to lay down six criteria to be applied before American combat forces are used:

1. The engagement must be vital to American interests.
2. The US must be willing to commit the troops wholeheartedly and with the clear intention of "winning".
3. The engagement must have clearly defined political and military objectives.
4. The relationship of objectives to the size and composition of the force must be continuously reassessed.
5. There must be "some reasonable assurance" at all stages that Congress and the American people are behind the operation.
6. The commitment of US troops should be a last resort.

This declaration may seem to Europeans an unexceptionable restatement of Clausewitzian principles. In the context of what the right-wing columnist William Safire has called "the fight for Ronald Reagan's strategic soul", however, it carried a barely coded declaration of war on Mr Shultz, and so immediately put the cat among the Washington pigeons. The key to the code, like so much else in American foreign policy, lies in the word "Israel".

To oversimplify matters, Mr Shultz is pro-Israeli and Mr Weinberger leans towards the Arabs. Mr Shultz was in favour of the US presence in the Lebanon and was closely associated in the public mind with the debacle there; Mr Weinberger was more sceptical and kept his nose clean.

Mr Shultz appeared in a skull-cap before a Jewish audience in New York at the end of the election campaign and proceeded to read them a heartening lecture on the need for the US to adopt a much more active, retaliatory and even preemptive campaign against international "terrorism". Mr Weinberger thinks Mr Shultz was making a dangerous fool of himself.

Armed with this crib, it is possible to translate the speech roughly as follows: "Let's cut out all this wild talk about preemptive strikes and unspecified military crusades against the immorality of terrorism. It may be good for a few Jewish votes but the American people will quite rightly refuse to back the long-term consequences. This kind of loose thinking got us into Vietnam; and it got us into the Lebanon – neither of which enterprises would have passed my test list. Central America might, in future, satisfy the criteria if things get bad enough, but if we do go in it will have to be a quick all-out strike like Grenada, not a creeping, surreptitious, incremental affair."

This plain version will indicate why the right has been showering imprecations on Mr Weinberger ever since he spoke. The ferociously pro-Zionist Mr Safire, for instance, has accused him of wanting "fun-only" wars; of moral blindness; and of proclaiming, on behalf of a demoralized and incompetent military, a concept of "vital interest" suitable for Switzerland and a doctrine of "don't-call-us-until-you're-prepared-to-abdicate-to-us".

Mr Shultz himself has now returned to the charge. At another Jewish gathering (at Yeshiva University in New York) last Sunday, he repeated his thesis that the threat of force must be an integral part of American diplomacy and indirectly attacked Mr Weinberger at the politically most vulnerable point of his argument – the question of popular support. "When the US acts according to its principles and within the realistic limits of its power", said Mr Shultz, "we will be able to count on the full support of the American people." In other words, Mr Weinberger is insulting the American people by suggesting they are yellow, and he ought to be ashamed of himself.

This is all clean fun – all the more so since each of the protagonists is cast in an unaccustomed and uncomfortable role. Nevertheless the row is an interesting indication of the ferment that is going on in American foreign policy.

The substance of these changes will have to be discussed in another column, but they are an encouraging sign, entirely appropriate to these strange, slack weeks between Reagan's first term and the next.

Philip Howard

Hard cheese on Zummerzet

The Trobriand Islanders got it right about food. According to Bronislaw Malinowski, the pioneer functionalist anthropologist, these Argonauts of the Western Pacific have no inhibitions about sex, but are extraordinarily bashful about the dangerous act of eating. So they copulate in public but eat furtively, in private.

Of course that was 70 years ago. And Malinowski's credibility as a witness has been damaged by the publication of his indiscreet diary. But to be alarmed by the whole business of cooking and eating is a sound approach. *Pace* gastronomes from Brillat-Savarin to B. Levin, to pretent that food is an art, or even a high art, is pretentious gluttony. *La nouvelle cuisine* is vegetables arranged to look like something other than vegetables on a side-plate, small helpings, a big bill, and long boring descriptions of what you are going to eat from the menu, or worse the proprietor.

Ordering what to eat in a restaurant makes the Trobriand Islanders among us hesitate like one o'clock half struck. Prawns would be nice, if you did not have to undress them, and see those reproachful beady eyes staring at you. What on earth or under the sea is Ceviche? Could anybody eat hot Roquefort with marmalade and pears? The stomach whimpers apprehensively. And one ends up wishing that one had ordered what the others did.

I hardly notice what I am eating, unless it stares at me. In a pompous restaurant the other day, for a high policy discussion with a colleague who takes his food seriously, I ordered wild duck, not from any urgent conviction but from the necessity to say something. The menu droned on for several paragraphs about the pinkness of the duck, the succulence of the damsons with which it was garnished, the wildness of the accompanying rice, etc ad nauseam.

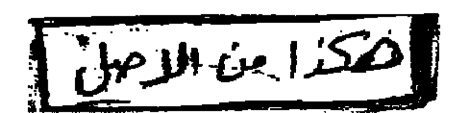
The food arrived, and we fell to, eating, talking, and having a good time. When we had just about finished, my colleague stared at my plate in horror and asked: "Are you sure that you got your wild duck?" I looked, and there was a piece of blackish meat in sticky brown sauce left on my plate. The waitress was horrified too. She had brought me the venison in sticky sauce, by mistake. She was very keen to bring me the wild duck I had ordered to replace the venison I had not ordered. When I protested that I had had quite enough to eat, and that wild duck and venison were all birds of the same feather to me, my stock fell throughout the restaurant, which was listening agog.

Simple food is best. Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the bough, a Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse – and Thou, Beside me singing in the Wilderness. That's about right, old boy; though it does depend on who Thou is and what she is singing. Anything from *The Sound of Music* gets a red card right away. But I could live quite happily on a diet of bread, cheese, apples, nuts, and the occasional raw onion.

And for the cheese, I do not want any of your elaborately decaying and oozing cheeses. A piece of Gruyère, Emmenthal, or strong, farmhouse Cheddar with a kick like a cow will do nicely. They call such apotheosis of milk "Tasty" in the market at Devizes, and doubtless in other parts of the West Country; and tasty it is. I had always taken it as an axiom that your true Cheddar came only from Somerset; and that Cheddar from other parts of the world was merely soap masquerading as cheese.

I am taken aback to learn that I have got this wrong from the biggest cheese I know, my friend Rupert Cooper, founder and managing director of the Campbeltown Creamery. As its name implies, it draws its milk from a long way north of Cheddar: Kintyre, as far north as Oban and Inverary, and including the island of Gigha. It has one of the most modern cheese-making plants in Europe, and makes a lot of the stuff.

I have always taken the view that Scottish cheese is like Dutch cheese: inoffensive but a bit insipid. Rupe the Coop now tells me that the strong bit of Tasty that I like is in fact in the last stages of decomposition. Fiddle-faddle, I said. But his damned Campbeltown Creamery, and its Cheesemaker George McSporran (I did not make that up) have just won the championship cup for the best cheese at the Scottish Cheese Show with their Campbeltown Cheddar Cheese. This was in the teeth of competition from 89 other Cheddar cheese producers from all over Europe, including Somerset. I am clearly going to have to revise my opinions about cheese, as about other things. One grows up by eating one's opinions.



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HEIR APPARENT

The Soviet heir apparent Mikhail Gorbachov will attract great attention when he arrives in London this weekend. Despite the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe, the Russians are still prepared to talk. Mr Gorbachov is coming to Britain as one of the Politburo's top men, while their recent delegation to Japan was headed by the less important member, Mr Kunaev. Inevitably, some people might see his visit as an opportunity for Britain to play a vital role in helping to reduce international tensions, or at the very least, as a means to reduce unemployment by expanding British trade with the USSR. Such expectations should not be formed, since they will lead to disappointments.

At 53 Mr Gorbachov is indeed younger than the other leaders, but his reputation in some quarters as a reformer and advocate of detente is based on very flimsy evidence. The Kremlin is not usually kind to younger men who seem eager to take the place of the incumbent head of the party. In 1975 Alexander Shelepin, regarded as challenging the Brezhnev leadership, was removed from the Politburo shortly after his visit to Britain. The two events were not necessarily connected, but any effort spent cultivating him clearly did not pay dividends. And even if Mr Gorbachov should eventually succeed President Chernenko, his foreign policy – that of the entire Soviet system – will be inspired by the same hostile idology and determination to extend Soviet influence which prevails at present and which has had his loyal support since he began his career over thirty years ago.

His reputation as favouring a softer line towards the West may prove no more genuine than his present guise as a "parliamentarian". True, in April he became chairman of the foreign affairs commission, a department of the Supreme Soviet, which claims to be democratically elected and the highest legislative body of the USSR. It is neither, and Mr Gorbachov owes his position not to the rigged one-candidate electoral system but to his competence as a party bureaucrat and his ability to cultivate the right superior at the right time.

Because of the closed nature of Soviet society, there is an understandable tendency for the Western media to exaggerate the importance of high level visits. In 1956 the Bulganin and Khrushchev delegation was hailed as an opportunity to deal directly with the Soviet rulers in the hope of expanding British exports. Mr Bulganin, the prime minister, did indeed offer to buy goods worth some £1,000 million, but made it clear that the offer was dependent on Britain persuading the Americans to relax the Nato strategic embargo. The leader of the Labour Party then criticized the American position and emphasized the importance to British industry of Soviet trade. Two years later Mr Khrushchev dispensed with Mr Bulganin's services, but Soviet efforts to promote disagreements among the Nato allies continue unabated.

However much Mr Gorbachov's mind is broadened by travel, he will not return to Moscow intending to change the negative image of Britain presented to Soviet citizens by members of the party and the official organs of propaganda. Such a change could risk the possibility that too many Soviet citizens would then ask permission to travel abroad themselves. It is certainly no bad thing for Soviet leaders to gain some first-hand experience of life beyond Kremlin walls. But no miracles should be expected. Real progress in East-West relations depends more on long and hard negotiations, of which the Schultz-Gromyko meeting will only be the start. A guest appearance by a rising star of the Soviet apparatus will not alter the underlying nature of the system which produced him.

OVER PROTECTIVE

Britain's clothing and textile industries have long claimed protection from the competing products of low-wage economies. So, too, have the textile industries of continental Europe, the United States, Australia – and the rest of the developed world. Decades of protectionist pressure form the background to the present Multi-Fibre Arrangement, under which international trade in these products is closely governed by quotas. This MFA, the third in a series, expires in 1986. With unusual tactical skill, the Department of Trade and Industry prepared for the new round of international negotiations with a special economic analysis of the MFA's effect on Britain, published yesterday.

Since Britain (or indeed the European Community, which negotiates as a unit) is unlikely to see the tide of unemployment recede next year, no Government is likely to relish a policy appearing to lead to a further spate of factory closures. Yet Professor Silberston's report is an unusually clear warning of the dangers of listening too hard to the vociferous minority of losers in the struggle to promote economic change.

Professor Silberston calculates, on some pretty cautious assumptions, that the existing system of import quotas raises the price of textiles and clothing in Britain by 5 per cent. In 1982, he argues, this system deprived British consumers of some £500 million. Were the MFA arrangements to be wound down, his "simulations" suggest an extra loss of between 10,000 and 50,000 British jobs in these industries. Taking the larger figure, this means each protected job cost British consumers about £10,000 in 1982 – roughly twice as much as the average employee in those industries was actually earning.

This result should not come as a surprise, since part of the subsidy extracted from the consumer by artificially-high prices goes to overseas producers. But it is an admirably clear, and timely demonstration of the high cost of protectionism; and its implications are plain.

If the MFA were to be wound down, Professor Silberston's "simulations" suggest at least as much employment, and probably more, would be stimulated in the rest of the economy as would be lost in textiles and clothing. It would, naturally, be better for Britain if all countries were to act together, not least those – rich and poor – which restrict imports of British clothes and textile. It would be better still if a liberal attitude to the MFA could be used as an international lever to open up export for other British goods.

In Britain, Professor Silberston's calculations of job losses appear moderate partly because they suggest a further 150,000 jobs will disappear anyway in clothing and textiles by the early 1990s, as these two industriess become more capital intensive. The two show different trends, implying tactical differences in treatment. Technological innovation in textiles is dramatic enough to permit productivity gains sufficient to outweight the disadvantage of higher wages in developed countries, which means British manufactures ought to be able to compete internationally (and greater success in other European countries shows the way to go). But the clothing trade is still highly labour-intensive, which suggests the wind of change should be tempered; though its competitive position could be improved by freer access to cheap imported materials.

On the other hand, clothing manufacture is now heavily concentrated in the relatively fortunate south east of England, where many of the new jobs could be expected to appear. The textile industry has centres in some of Britain higher unemployment areas.

Politically-sensitive answers to these problems could allow for some of the puchasing power regained by consumers to be diverted towards easing adjustment pains, or creating general employment and investment incentives, provided these could be shown to enhance the final result. They must not attempt to ignore Professor Silberston's strategic conclusion. He shows specifically how protectionism can fail to create jobs; and how the subsidies involved are no less costly because they are taken covertly out of the consumer's pockets rather than through open taxation

A LORRYLOAD OF TROUBLE

On the question of lorry nuisance, the Secretary of State for Transport has had within a matter of only a few hours to put a foot down firmly in Brussels, and to put the other foot down equally firmly in Westminster. In Brussels he was seeking to defend the interest of the public who detest the nasty noisy things (though not the merchandise and employment that they bring), and in London he was standing up for the hauliers against the environmentalists: such is the stuff of politics. There is consistency to be found behind this apparently paradoxical cross-Channel straddling stance, but the coincidence illustrates the conflicting pressures that assail policy-makers in this area.

In Brussels, Mr Ridley was reaffirming what some of his colleagues has suspected was a faltering ardour to stand by the promise the Government made two years ago, under threat of an earlier backbench Tory revolt, not to give in to EEC pressure to raise the maximum weight-limit for lorries on British roads to 40 tonnes instead of 38. The promise was made, and should be honoured, although there was no great logic to it. Overall weight is a less important factor in causing damage to buildings and bridges than axle-weight, which may be greater for smaller lorries with fewer axles that for those of the maximum weight. Britain's position means that standard containers will still have to travel across Europe to Britain wastefully part-empty, with no great environmental benefit.

The EEC package also involves a less noted retreat over restrictions on noise. The proposed regulations would mean that new lorries should by 1990 be only about half as noisy (when new) as they were in 1980, meeting a standard of 84 decibels. But the Armitage report recommended, and regarded as practical, a limit of only 80 decibels. Improvement in these areas depends on the regulations, for improvement always involve competitive sacrifice. A whispering British prototype of an 84-decibel lorry was developed as long ago as 1978 (it was seven per cent dearer to build but only one per cent dearer to run); but it has never been put into production. Mr Ridley's resistance to the other EEC ministers over maximum size is something of a token victory in a complex package whose other provisions are also important.

Meanwhile in London, the GLC declared its intention of striking a far more drastic blow against the juggernaut, by banning all lorries over 16 tonnes from the greater part of the GLC area at nights and at weekends. It is a proposal which has more to do with the GLC's publicity battle against abolition than with practical local administration. It makes a facile appeal for the sympathy of all those who have ever chafed at the nuisance of lorries in crowded streets designed for vehicles a tenth their size. Forcing more lorries onto those streets in the congested daylight hours might in practice enlist very little sympathy indeed (submissions sent to the GLC about the plan were numerous and mainly hostile). The effects of the ban were so difficult to assess that even members of the committee which studied the problem for the GLC in 1983 made sharply divergent predictions. Since then the introduction of many exceptions to protect jobs and trade have made the effects still more unpredictable. The opening of the M25 in two years should in any case remove much of the very category of lorries in transit that the plan seeks to exclude.

The plan is an example of the irresponsibility which has afflicted the GLC since it has been under sentence of death and has ceased to have to look towards the next polling-day or consider the consequences of its actions beyond the date assigned for abolition. There is a tragedy about this, for this is exactly the kind of function that a properly-founded London-wide authority should be exercising, in seeking practicable strategic measures for the control of the burden of traffic on the metropolis. Mr Ridley, rightly acting to prevent the implementation of the plan as it stands, was also right to set up a fresh inquiry rather than dismiss the idea out of hand. If it were not for the efforts of his colleague, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the natural course would be for the findings of such an inquiry to contribute to the debating and developing of policy within a framework of accountability to a London-wide electorate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Case for inquiry at polytechnic

From Lady Cox and others

Sir, The current troubles at the Polytechnic of North London (PNL) are a culmination of years of disorder and disruption, during which the Court of Governors has often failed to give the director support in his attempts to uphold discipline and standards.

The resignation of the director is most serious, involving as it does pressures from the Court of Governors and ILEA on the director to act in ways which he was advised could bring him into contempt of the High Court.

It is a matter of grave concern that a clear majority of the Court of Governors voted against an attempt by the director to ensure that lecturers who incite people to commit contempt of court should be regarded as committing a serious disciplinary offence, and that any student breaking High Court orders which bring the polytechnic into possible contempt of court should be deemed guilty by the polytechnic of a serious offence.

ILEA's proposal to set up an "independent inquiry" is not acceptable in view of the allegation that it has itself repeatedly put pressures on the director to take actions which he has been legally advised could be in contempt of court and contrary to the principles of natural justice.

The PNL costs the public nearly £20 million a year. While there are some good departments, especially in the natural sciences, other departments, notably sociology and social work, have recently received severe adverse criticism from Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Surely the time is overdue for the Government to set up a truly independent inquiry into the future of the college, its governance and the role therein of the ILEA.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
NOEL ANNAN,
BELOFF,
HARRIS OF GREENWICH,
House of Lords.
December 12.

Scientific talent as national resource

From the Secretary of the Medical Research Council

Sir, *The Annual Review of Government-funded R & D, 1984*, published yesterday by the Cabinet Office, sets out all research and development (R & D) programmes funded by central government. It gives the objectives of the programmes, the actual expenditure in recent years and the planned expenditure up to 1986-87.

It is an important document, not only for its wealth of detail, but because one of its aims is to facilitate judgements on the allocation of resources within the total UK expenditure on R & D.

The evidence in the report supports the view that judgements of priorities cannot be made by Government departments in isolation and that some mechanism is necessary for deciding national priorities where departmental interests either overlap or are in competition, or where the resources of individual departments are insufficient to meet national needs.

In the wider context of public spending the need for such a mechanism was emphasized by Mr Peter Hordern (December 4) and by Lord Barnett (December 8), and the need was highlighted last week in the events which led to the removal of £3 million from the extra money allocated by the Department of Education and Science for scientific and medical research.

The research councils are responsible for the health of scientific research in the UK. They have argued, through the Advisory Board for Research Councils, that a vigorous base of scientific research in the universities and in council-supported research institutes is essential for the long-term welfare and prosperity of the UK; it is the base which provides the trained manpower, the ideas and the discoveries which underpin practical advances in, for example, medicine, agriculture and technology.

The budgets of the research councils have been eroded in recent years to the point where there is a danger of severe damage to the country's scientific capability. The decision of Sir Keith Joseph to give temporary financial help to the research councils was much welcomed and admired by the scientific community, but sadly, its importance passed almost unnoticed last week in the debate in the House of Commons on student grants.

In the debate which the Government has invited on *The Annual Review of Government-funded R & D*, some consideration might be given to the view that the scientific talent of this country is a national resource and that the sponsoring of scientific research by government is a priority that needs to be considered at a national and not only at a departmental level.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GOWANS, Secretary,
Medical Research Council,
20 Park Crescent, W1.
December 12.

Embryo research in good cause

From Dr Robert Newill

Sir, Modern sensitive pregnancy tests have shown that only 30 per cent of fertilised eggs, developing into human embryos, ever end up as live human beings. The remaining 70 per cent are lost naturally at some stage during pregnancy.

Perhaps those whose morality is based on religious belief can explain why their God allows such a high proportion of "human beings" to die before they are even born.

The Bishop of Norwich (December 5) uses the emotive phrase "defenceless human embryos" to describe these masses of undifferentiated cells and your other correspondents seem to be convinced that there is something intrinsically sacred about a blob of cells containing human genes. Yet most of these blobs of cells are lost naturally and our society allows vast numbers of women to rid themselves legally of these inconvenient defenceless human embryos by virtual abortion on demand.

Why then insist on denying other women the right to donate their embryos in the alleviation of human suffering? And why do sanctimonious moralists always take it for granted that researchers in human reproduction are in league with the Devil?

They are not; they are kind and compassionate men and women motivated only by the desire to help people to have families of healthy children.

Since the beginning of time we have always celebrated peoples' birthdays – not their conception days. This is because common sense has always told us that a new human life starts at the moment of birth.

Yours truly,
ROBERT NEWILL,
111 Harley Street, W1.
December 6.

Conditional aid

From Mr D. H. O'Brien

Sir, Your editorial (November 27) rightly stressed that aid is "a wholly political matter, at both ends of the transaction". MPs without a means of measuring performance will, in debate, revert to their own political identities, be pulled by the emotions of their constituents for the cause of public concern at the time, and imbue recipient governments with their own assumptions as to what is good for them.

Would it not contribute to objective parliamentary debate on a strategy for aid if businessmen were to inform their own members of Parliament of the non-financial benefits which their customers in Third World "target" countries for aid derive from purchasing their services? We usually only approach our MP for help to obtain a contract or secure payment.

Those of us who stray beyond the capital cities in the course of our businesses are aware of needs at grassroots level. We may also be aware of political and other factors which prevent aid reaching the intended beneficiaries. Sometimes we are encouraged by projects where aid, from any source, is being well invested.

Examples from first-hand knowledge will provide our MPs with at least a rudimentary yardstick to measure performance. This may even lead better-informed members and ministers to break down some Government departmental barriers which separate aid from trade, both in this country and overseas.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. O'BRIEN,
Job Creation Limited,
17/18 Old Bond Street, W1.
November 30.

VAT on publications

From the Editor of The Illustrated London News

Sir, You report (December 7) that more than 150 MPs have signed a Commons motion warning the Chancellor of the Exchequer against any attempt to impose value-added tax on books, and that is welcome news. But the threat from the Government is in fact far greater, covering the whole field of communication and information, for they contemplate putting VAT on newspapers and periodicals as well.

Obviously I have a direct interest since I edit a publication that would be seriously affected by such a tax, which we would have to pass on to our readers (just as, I suppose, would you); but we might none the less be better placed than many other magazines, of which there are some 6,000 currently being published in the United Kingdom.

Most of these are specialist publications, providing vital information and communication for people involved or interested in a particular business, trade or industry, and in education, the arts and politics. Many of them operate on the narrowest of profitability margins.

A recent study has suggested that if VAT is imposed on such publications more than 500 of them would have to close down.

Such losses are surely not acceptable in a society whose freedom is based on the free flow of information and knowledge. When Iain Macleod, then Conservative shadow Chancellor, first introduced the VAT proposal he declared that "on the general principle of avoiding a tax on knowledge we intend that books, journals, newspapers and broadcasting should be at a zero rate".

That principle has not changed. Taxes on advertisements and paper and the stamp duty by which successive governments had tried to exercise some control over the Press, were repealed more than a century ago, and any attempt now to introduce a tax on words, whether in books, newspapers or magazines, can only be regarded as retrograde and potentially anti-democratic.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BISHOP, Editor,
The Illustrated London News,
Elm House,
10-16 Elm Street, WC1.
December 10.

Justice for juveniles

From Mr Tony Hall

Sir, Mr J. Rae Price (December 6) is not alone in expressing concern about current proposals to introduce an independent prosecution service for juveniles.

Child-care law in Britain is in a mess precisely because it has been constantly subjected throughout the past 30 years to this kind of piecemeal change; for the same reason the legal system through which it operates is no less inadequate in dealing with the complex issues which face children and families. Both of these facts were acknowledged by the report of the House of Commons select committee on children in care, and the Government has since proposed action.

Child-care legislation is now the subject of an interdepartmental review and a second group is considering the structure and merits of a family court system (an approach which was, incidentally, widely supported by those giving evidence to the select committee).

Is this the appropriate time, therefore, for the Government to propose a major change in the present system of juvenile justice? Whatever the merits of an independent prosecution service, surely the Government must now await the outcome of work already in progress before tinkering further with a legislative framework and a legal system so badly in need of major and fundamental review.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HALL, Director and Secretary,
British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering,
11 Southwark Street, SE1.
December 6.

Teachers' assessment

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Lucy Hodges's analysis (feature, December 7) of the current state of teachers' pay negotiations contained many value judgements with which we would disagree.

Although the National Union of Teachers is quite prepared to take action in support of the 1985 pay claim, that action is certainly not inevitable as Lucy Hodges suggests. Nor is the prospect of a "more equitable career structure" lost for ever.

If the local authority employers respond positively to the teachers' pay claim, a claim which itself would bring a new pay structure for the 1980s and 1990s, there need be no trouble or disruption in schools.

In highlighting why teachers are deeply suspicious of any proposals coming from the employers and the Government, one important element was omitted. How does one judge the competence of a teacher who has inadequate resources to do the job? Is it fair or reasonable to ban someone from teaching for life because he or she finds it difficult to teach a class without textbooks?

Teachers also have a suspicion that if assessment were to be introduced on the basis envisaged by the employers, the chances are that in any one year the number of teachers required by Sir Keith to be sacked for economic reasons would, by a strange coincidence, be the same number who would fail their assessment.

Your readers should be in no doubt that, far from opposing assessment as your education correspondent suggests, the union favours its introduction. Indeed the NUT was the first to call for assessment – not for salary purposes and not as a barometer of public spending, but for professional enhancement. That is the way to improve teacher efficiency and education standards, not with a huge stick.

Yours sincerely,
FRED JARVIS, General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1.
December 10.

Parental responsibility

From Dr Margaret White, JP

Sir, Your heading to the letter from eight agony aunts, "Compassion for the pregnant young" (December 10) is not well chosen. The gist of the letter is a plea by these ladies for doctors to make life easy for males of all ages who choose to have illegal sexual intercourse with children, and refuse to take contraceptive precautions themselves.

They describe children whose parents "find it difficult to communicate, are indifferent, actively hostile, physically brutal, or have abandoned the child". It is sad that their idea of showing compassion to such children is to give them contraceptive pills.

Experience in medical practice and the juvenile courts has convinced me that far from solving an unhappy child's problem such a recipe will compound them.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET WHITE,
22 Upfield, Croydon, Surrey.
December 10.

Auction inquiries

From Mr Peter Campion

Sir, I read with interest the article (December 3) on lot 432, the Queen Anne bookcase and the inquiries into its auction.

I am not surprised that the BADA (British Antique Dealers' Association) inquiry was a "gentlemanly affair". Vigorous lifting of stones can reveal all manner of things.

I am a restorer, *not* a dealer, and occasionally go to local sales to keep abreast of prices and buy unwanted pieces for the timber. The dealers are very apparent and it does not take much imagination to decide which ones might be operating in a ring.

A good example is when one or two out of a group are the only ones bidding, the rest remaining silent. At first glance nothing appears unusual; but when this and other incidents happen over a period of time a certain situation is obviously taking place.

I have seen a crowd of dealers together in a van with the rear doors open, having their auction, with money changing hands in the middle of a public car park.

Mr Simon Bruton, in your article, declares that the happenings after a sale are not his concern. Quite so. But what about the events that take place during a sale?

If casual attenders at a sale can suspect that a ring is operating then I say that the auctioneer should be equally suspicious. He can see all the bidders and it is his job to sense a situation in front of him.

Operating a ring or being part of one is a large source of income for many dealers but it is an illegal practice very difficult to prove. But perhaps if auctioneers did not shrug their shoulders quite so readily their clients might obtain a fairer price for the goods on sale.

Yours sincerely,
PETER CAMPION,
Myrtle Cottage,
Gretton,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
December 4.

The fourth frontier

From Lord Chitnis

Sir, You say (December 10) that El Salvador has elected a civilian President and only in Nicaragua has the old military dictatorship been succeeded by a new style repression.

Since, in every major respect, the election in El Salvador was inferior to that in Nicaragua – the effect of the war on the conduct of the campaign, violence between supporters of the contending parties, multiple choice across the political spectrum, respect for human rights, freedom of speech and association and the conduct of the polling process itself – how can it be seriously argued that, if President Duarte of El Salvador is validly elected, President Ortega of Nicaragua is not?

Yours faithfully,
CHITNIS,
House of Lords.
December 11.

Levy on TV films

From Mr Harvey Kass

Sir, No doubt prompted by last week's Government defeat in the committee stage of the Films Bill, David Plowright writes (December 12) that the Independent Television Companies' Association Limited, of which he is chairman, totally rejects the "levy on film" concept. This is hardly surprising since the proposed levy will fall to be paid in part by the members of the association he represents.

Mr Plowright states that "feature films now earn very high prices from television, and so the concept of compensation is irrelevant". This statement is misleading in the extreme. Whilst a handful of films each year can indeed earn high prices from UK television, these are exceptional. The BBC/ITV purchasing duopoly effectively ensures that the cost of televising the vast majority of films is derisory.

Prices paid by UK television are generally closely guarded secrets, save for the few major purchases each year. Furthermore, the marginal cost of broadcasting older feature films on television is often as little as a few hundred pounds, notwithstanding considerable ratings success and (in the case of ITV) corresponding advertising revenue.

The number of people watching feature films on television over the Christmas period will far exceed cinema admissions for the whole year. Most would agree that this is directly related to the high number of films shown on television. As Conservative MP, Roger Gale, told the parliamentary committee last week, "Independent television and the BBC have for too long been parasites on the film industry and have paid very little for what they have received".

In the case of the BBC the cost of the proposed levy is estimated to be a mere 30p per licence holder each year. The resultant fund would be used to generate many more British films, which would subsequently be shown on television.

Mr Plowright writes of the "heavy taxation" to which the independent television companies are subject, and of the "cost burden" that a levy on films shown on television would impose. In the light of independent television's guaranteed income from advertising, and extremely high profits, I am sure that the proposed levy would not serve to deter competition next time the independent television franchises fall to be awarded.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY KASS,
British Film Campaign Group,
17 Great Pulteney Street, W1.
December 12.

Just so

From Mrs Elspeth Huxley

Sir, Could we have a moratorium on the use of the phrase "they behaved like animals" to describe any especially nasty form of human brutality? Carnivores certainly kill when they need their dinners but do so as quickly as they can. Herbivores just eat vegetation and do not interfere with others.

Do we hear of dolphins torturing other dolphins, gorillas cutting, or biting, bits off other gorillas, elephants inflicting prolonged periods of terror on other elephants, or indeed on any other animal?

Rather should dolphins left to die in nets, gorillas killed in order that their dried heads should be sold to tourists, elephants dying in agony from poisons for the sake of their tusks, exclaim, in condemnation of acts of savagery (should these ever occur) committed by members of their own species: "They behaved like humans".

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HUXLEY,
Green End,
Oaksey,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire.
December 11.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 13: The Prince Andrew this evening attended the première of the film, *Dune*, in aid of the National Association for Mental Health (MIND), at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square.

His Royal Highness was received by the Chairman of MIND (the Lord Ennals).

Wing Commander Adam Wise was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 13: Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Nash today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Readhead also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 13: The Prince of Wales, Patron, The South Atlantic Fund, this morning received Admiral Sir Peter Herbert upon relinquishing the Chairmanship of the Trustees of the Fund, and Admiral Sir Simon Cassels upon assuming the Chairmanship.

The Prince of Wales visited The Henley Centre for Forecasting at 2 Tudor Street, London, EC4, where His Royal Highness toured the Centre and afterwards was entertained at luncheon.

Major Jack Stenhouse was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Gala Performance of the Olympia International Showjumping Championships held at Olympia in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Her Royal Highness is President.

Lady Juliet Townsend was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 13: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, London SE26.

In the evening, Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at a charity performance of *The Adventures of Robin Hood* by members of the City of London Police Children's Fund, in aid of the Mental Health Foundation of which Her Royal Highness is Patron, at Wood Street Police Station, London EC2.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Anglian Regiment, will attend a Christmas band concert, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, at Werrington Sports Complex, Peterborough, on December 16.

The Duke of Gloucester, patron, will attend a dinner to mark the launching of the National Association of Boys' Clubs Diamond Jubilee Year, 1985, at the Mansion House on December 17.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a farewell luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Sir Jack Cater, retiring Head of the Hong Kong Government Office.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
The Secretary of State for Scotland, the Hon George Younger, attended a luncheon given by Mr Geoff M. Townsend, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, at 12 Great George Street yesterday.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr Ted Garrett, MP, and Mr Bowen Wells, MP, were hosts at a luncheon given yesterday in the House of Commons by the executive committee of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in honour of the High Commissioners for Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas and the Deputy High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
A dinner was held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists yesterday evening to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Sir John Peel. The president, Professor M. C. Macnaughton, and Mrs Macnaughton received the guests who included Sir John and Lady Peel, other past presidents, college officers, past officers and their ladies.

St Gregory's Society
The annual London dinner of St Gregory's Society – Downside School was held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr J. E. B. Scanlan, president, was in the chair and the other speaker was the Headmaster of Downside School, Dom Philip Jebb. Among those present were the Spanish Ambassador, Viscount Sidmouth, the Abbot of Downside, the Abbot of Ampleforth, Dom Martin Salmon and Mr R. H. Bevan.

Dinners

Fan Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were entertained at dinner at the Mansion House last night by Mr R. H. Husband, Master of the Fan Makers' Company, and Miss Suzanne Howes, the Freewarden and Mrs Shelton, the Foreign Warden and Mrs Ross Collins and the Court of Assistants. The Lord Mayor, the Master, the Foreign Warden and Mr R. E. Tully, President of the Chartered Institution of Building Services, were the speakers. Among those present were:

The Vice-Chancellor of the Cranfield Institute of Technology and Lady Chilver, Alderman Sir Ronald and Lady Gardner-Thorpe, the Master of the Loriners' Company and Mrs Cunningham, the Master of the Coopers' Company, the Master and Mistress Cutler, the Honorary Chaplain and the Clerk and Mrs Southcombe.

Lady Mayoress of Westminster
After the lighting up of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square by the Crown Princess of Norway last night the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster gave a dinner at Westminster City Hall in honour of the Crown Prince and Princess. Among those present were:

The Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Busch, the Earl of Avon, Lord and Lady Forte, Sir Peter and Lady Scott and Sir Leslie and Lady Porter.

The Earl of Lauderdale
The Earl of Lauderdale, Director of Elf Aquitaine UK (Holdings) Limited, was host at a dinner held last night at the Houses of Parliament. The guest of honour was Sir Thomas Risk, Governor of the Bank of Scotland. Those present were:

Mr David Dixon, chairman, Elf UK plc, Mr Peter Godfrey, Mr John H Gunn, Mr Stephen Huddie, Mr Philippe Hustache, M Yves Lesage, Lord McGowan, Mr Kenit de M Price, M J Jean Rambosson, Sir Melvin Rosser, M Arnaud Rousseau, managing director Elf Aquitaine UK (Holdings), Mr Peter Stanley, Mr Paul Willert and Mr Herman van der Wyck.

Red Devils' Ball
Mr John Ashcroft, Chief Executive of Coloroll Limited, and Mrs Ashcroft were hosts at a dinner and ball held on December 13 at the Savoy Hotel given in honour of the Red Devils, the Free Fall Team of The Parachute Regiment. The guest of honour was the Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, who was accompanied by Lady Howlett.

Among those present were:

The Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, Mr John Lee, MP, and Mrs Lee, the Regimental Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel E A J Gardener, and Mrs Gardener, the Colonel of the Depot of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces, Lieutenant-Colonel D L Roberts, and Mrs Roberts, the Team Commander of the Red Devils, Captain M Munn, and Mrs Munn, officers of The Parachute Regiment and their ladies, members of the Red Devils Free Fall team and their guests and guests from commerce and industry.

Company of Tin Plate Workers Alias Wire Workers
The quarterly Court dinner of the Company of Tin Plate Workers Alias Wire Workers was held at Trinity House last night. The Deputy Master, Mr D. A. Kempner, presided, assisted by Mr D. W. Llewellyn, Upper Warden and Mr C. M. Packett, Under Warden. The other speakers were Sir Ralph Perring and Sir Donald Gosling.

Conversazione

Royal Astronomical Society
The President of the Royal Astronomical Society, Professor R Hide, FRS, gave a conversazione at Burlington House yesterday evening in honour of Professor W H McCrea, on his eightieth birthday. The President of the Royal Society, presidents of other learned societies, the Vice-Chancellor of Sussex University and colleagues from all over the world were among those present.

Forthcoming marriages

The Earl of Courtown and Miss E. D. Dunnett
The engagement is announced between Patrick, elder son of the late Earl of Courtown and of the Countess of Courtown, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, and Elisabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs I. R. Dunnett, of Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire.

Mr N. M. F. T. Barry and Miss F. M. Rankin
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Mark, second son of the late Major Sir Rupert Barry, Bt, MBE, and of Sheila Lady Barry, of Willesborough Lees, Ashford, Kent, and Fiona Mary, younger daughter of the late Mr John Rankin, QC, and of Mrs Rankin, Prospect House, Boughton, Faversham, Kent.

Mr S. V. Clough and Miss M. C. Wakely
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs E. O. Clough, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Melanie Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. H. Wakely, of Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr R. M. A. Connell and Miss C. L. Bourne
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Connell, of Longfeld, Rabbit Lane, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryant Bourne, of Farmcoombe, The Close, Saltwood, Kent.

Mr K. P. Despard and Miss E. L. F. Piper
The engagement is announced between Patrick, only son of Mr and Mrs M. H. Despard, of Tregunter Road, London, SW10, and Edwina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. F. Piper, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr A. C. Drobik and Miss E. M. Marinos
The engagement is announced between Alexander Christian, son of Jan-Karol Drobik, Ariba, and Ida Drobik, and Efimia Marina, daughter of Maria Marinos and the late George D. Marinos.

Mr M. H. Dunn and Miss S.-A. Freeland
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of the late Mr John Dunn and Dr Edna Helson, and stepson of Mr Reg Helson, of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and Sally-Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Freeland, of Chipstead Surrey.

Mr D. F. Gibbs and Miss G. J. Vandervell
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs P. D. Gibbs, of Cousins Farm, Billingshurst, West Sussex, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. A. Vandervell, of Horseshoe Hill House, Burnham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr B. H. H. Harwood and Miss C. S. Hewett
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, only son of Commander and Mrs Henry Harwood, of Wellclose House, Bradford-on-Avon, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. G. Hewett, of Clavey's Farm, Mells, Somerset.

Mr D. C. Hopkins and Miss A. P. Alford
The engagement is announced between David Hopkins, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. Hopkins, of Teignmouth, and Annette, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. J. Alford, of Broadstone, Dorset.

Mr R. C. Jackson and Miss D. C. Lee
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs D. H. Jackson, of Minions, Cornwall, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. P. Lee, of Maugersbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr M. H. Levy and Miss W. J. Lee
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mrs L. Levy, of Didsbury, Manchester, and the late Mr Jack Levy, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Lee, of Liversedge, West Yorkshire.

Mr M. Nathanson and Miss C. E. Collins
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mrs D. Lunderen, of Skelleftea, Sweden, and Carolyn Esther, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Collins, of Kensington, W8.

Mr N. H. Richardson and Miss J. A. M. Lada-Walicki
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs P. D. Richardson, of Elsham, Brigg, Lincolnshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. A. M. Lada-Walicki, of South Benfleet, Essex.

Mr N. S. K. Shattock and Miss C. A. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Captain B. K. and Dr Shattock, of Hindhead, and Cora Ann, only daughter of Mrs J. Roberts, of Pwllheli, Gwynedd, and the late Mr G. J. Roberts.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. Stock and Mrs A. M. E. L. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Peter Stock, Royal Artillery (retd), only son of the late E. G. Stock and Mrs E. M. Stock, of Risborough Road, Bedford and Andrea, daughter of the late K. H. Vickers and Mrs M. T. C. M. Collings, of Knighton Court, Leicester.

Captain M. L. Syms and Miss C. M. S. Agar
The engagement is announced between Martin Syms, Welsh Guards, elder son of Commander and Mrs Dudley Syms, of Webbs Land, Wickham, Hampshire, and Carina, eldest daughter of Commander and Mrs Rodney Agar, of Weybrook House, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr P. D. Tucker and Miss N. P. Peckar
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Tucker, of London, and Nicole, daughter of Mrs Renee Peckar and the late Dr Vivian Peckar, of London.

Mr P. D. Vaughan and Miss M. L. French
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs D. G. Vaughan, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed, and Michelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. E. French, of Hornchurch, Essex.

Mr N. Ward and Miss S. Morris
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. E. Ward and Mrs Gloria Ward, of Bayards Cove, Dartmouth, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Morris, of Aldeburgh and Hong Kong.

President Reagan being presented with *Challenges to the Western Alliance*, a book published last month by Times Books, based on a series of essays which originally appeared in *The Times* on the thirty-fifth anniversary of Nato. With the president in the Oval office at the White House are Mr Joseph Godson (left), who edited the book, and Mr Charles Douglas-Home, editor of *The Times*.

Birthdays today

Mr Alfred Bestall, 92; Sir Thomas Bromley, 73; Mr Richard Cassilly, 57; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 72; Major-General F. C. C. Graham, 76; the Most Rev J. B. R. Grindrod, 65; Sir Anthony Kershaw, MP, 69; Judge Sir Ian Lewis, 59; Mr Berthold Lubetkin, 83; Mr Robert Mitchell, 71; Mr C. R. Morris, 58; Mr Alberto Morrocco, 67; Sir John Osborn, MP, 62; Dame Ruth Railton, 69; Miss Lee Remick, 49; Mr Stan Smith, 38; Colonel Sir Cennydd Traherne, 74; Professor Alfred Ubbelohde, 77.

Binney Memorial Awards

The Lord Mayor yesterday presented the Binney Memorial Awards for bravery in support of law and order in the City of London and the Metropolis at Goldsmiths' Hall.

The Binney Medal for 1983 was awarded to Mr Stephen Rudge and certificates of merit for other acts of bravery were awarded to Mrs E Allen, Mr G Casal, Mr N D Coleman, Mr D R Daniel, Miss E Daniel, Miss D Dowse, Mr R Dowson, Mr M Fallon, Miss B A Garraway, Mr C K Greggor, Mr C J Hale, Miss A Hajjan, Mr and Mrs L V Hilliker, Mr L Israel, Mr A W Lattimer, Mr B Payton, Mr E Queralto, Mr P M Sullivan and Mr M F Swindon.

Latest wills

Weetabix chief's farewell gift

Mr William Anthony George, of Gretton, Northamptonshire, chairman of Weetabix from 1970-82 and president since that date, and chairman of Whitworth Holdings, Wellingborough, left estate valed at £1,130,262 net. Among bequests he left £10 for each year of service to employees of not less than 25 years' service with Weetabix, Whitworth Holdings, and any subsidiary company. The remainder of his property goes mostly to his wife and issue.

Memorial services

Lord Howard of Henderskelfe
A memorial service for Lord Howard of Henderskelfe was held yesterday at St Margaret's, Westminster. Canon Trevor Beeson officiated, assisted by the Rev Dr Collin Morris, Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC. The Duke of Grafton read the lesson and Miss Claire Bloom read an extract from *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Dostoyevsky. Lord Swan gave an address. Lord Home of the Hirsel attended. Among those present were:

The Hon Henry Howard and the Hon Michael Howard (sons), the Hon Nicholas and Mrs Howard and the Hon Simon and Mrs Howard (sons and daughters-in-law), Miss Christian Howard (sister), Mr Stephen Spens (brother-in-law), Miss Lou McGrady.

The Lord President Leader of the House of Lords and Viscountess Whitelaw, the Swedish Ambassador, the Duke of Norfolk, the Duchess of Grafton, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duchess of Marlborough, the Marchioness of Anglesey, the Earl of Munster, the Earl of Woolton, Esme, Countess of Carlisle, the Earl of Swinton, Countess Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Viscountess Downe, Mary, Viscountess Rothermere, Lord Brain, Lord Buxton of Alsa, Lord Moteon, Lady Swann, Lord Skelmersdale, Baroness Lane-Fox, Lord Kinnaird, Lord St Oswald, Lord Henley, Lady Saltoun, Lord Denham, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Monson (representing the Convenor of Independent Peers), Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission), Baroness Serota, Baroness Trumpington, Lord and Lady Middleton, Lord Conwallis, Lord Dunsay, Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Lord Tranmire, Lord Shaughnessy.

Mr Stuart Young (Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC) with Sir William Rees-Mogg, Lady Faulkner of Downpatrick, Mr Alwyn Roberts, Mr Watson Peat, Sir John Johnston, Miss Jocelyn Barrow, Miss Daphne Park, Sir John Boyd, Lady Parkes, Mr Alasdair Milne (director-general) and Mrs Milne, Mr Bill Cotton, Mr Richard Francis, Mr Austen Kark, Mr Alan Protheroe, Mr Brian Wenham, Mr Michael Checkland, Mr John Wilkinson, Mr Christopher Martin, Mr David Holmes and Miss Margaret Douglas.

Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, and Mrs Jenkins, Lady Winefride Freeman, Lady Jane Ledward, Lady Iona Grimston, the Hon Mrs David Montagu, the Hon Penelope Harbord-Hamond, the Hon Mrs Fraser, Sir Martyn Beckett (National Trust) and Lady Beckett, Sir Charles and Lady Graham, Lady Meyer, Sir Roger Cary, Sir Arthur Drew (Museum Association), Sir Roy Strong, Lady Goldsmith, Sir Ian and Lady Trethowan.

Sir Huw Weldon, Sir Nigel Strutt, Sir Paul Bryan, Lady Curran, Mr Richard Wilding (Office of Arts and Libraries, representing the Minister for the Arts), Mr John Last (commissioner, Museums and Galleries Commission) with Mr Peter Longman and Professor Brian Morris; Mr Jocelyn Stevens (Royal College of Art) with Professor J Hedgecoe, Professor C Frayling, Professor J Brogden and Professor Dick Ross; Mr Ronald Macknass (Meat and Livestock Commission), Mr Gervase Jackson-Stops (Treasure Houses of Britain Exhibition) Miss Cameron Greer (National Gallery of Art, Washington DC), Mr John Quick (Countryside Commission), Mr Ian Hall (Bloomsbury Society), Mr William Bell (Heritage of London Trust), Mr and Mrs Anthony Andrews, Mrs Derek Nimmo, Mr Piers Nimmo, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr Philip Roth, Mr St John Gore, Mr Roy Fuller, Dr Philippa Curran, Professor R Guyatt.

Mr and Mrs Humphrey Brooke, Mrs Frances Mathew, Mrs F M Mathew, Marshall Stewart (Central Independent Television), Mr Brian Lang (National Heritage Memorial Fund), Commander Michael Sanders Watson (Historic House Association) with Mr Terence Empson and Miss D Abel Smith (representing the Friends), Mr Richard Walters (Lodge of Antiquity No 2 and Chapter of St James No 2), Mr Richard Robson (curator, Castle Howard), Mr Timothy Clifford (National Gallery of Scotland), the Rev E Stride (Christ Church, Spitalfields) with Miss E Murray, Miss Tessa Murdoch and Mr Paul Oray.

Mr James Douglas (Country Landowners' Association), Mr C Rashbrook (Coutts and Company), Mr Leonard Mill, Major Adrian Paten, Miss Jane Deal, Mr Norman Hudson, Mr Hugh Leggatt, Major J Motram (Indian Grenadiers' Association), Dr and Mrs Hugh Jolly and Mr T W I Hodgkinson.

Mr R. Blass
A memorial service for Mr Ron Blass was held yesterday at St Luke's, Sidney Street, Chelsea. The Rev Derek Watson officiated. Lord Gibson read the lesson and Miss Kaye Webb, Mr E. J. B. Rose, Mr Malcolm Kelley, Managing Director of Ladybird Books, and Mr Peter Mayer, Chief Executive of Penguin Books, gave tributes. Among those present were:

Mrs Blass (widow), Mrs Margaret Blass (mother), Mr R Rough (brother-in-law), Mrs M Murphy, Miss M Millicent, Mrs M Hegyi, Miss A Rough, Mr S Rough.

Viscount Blakenham (chairman, Pearsons) with Mr John Hale (group managing director), Mr James Joll (director), Mr C Penn and Mr David Battinson; Lady Allan, Mr Simon Hornby (chairman, W H Smith and Son) with Mr Michael Pountney, Mr John Hyams, Mr R W Spencer (north London area manager) and Mr P J Whitelock (west London area manager); Mr John Broom (personnel director, Penguin Books), Mr Graham Beattie (managing director, Penguin Books New Zealand), Mr Ian Chapman (chairman, Collins) with Mr Alewyn Birch (group managing director), Mr T Joy (managing director, Hatchards), Mr Peter Allsop (Associated Book Publishers), Mr and Mrs Tim Rix, Mr Max Reinhardt, Mr Matthew Evans, Mr Michael Turner.

Mr Julian Blackwell (chairman, Blackwell Group), Mr Laurie Lee, Miss Judy Taylor, Mr Philip Attenborough (Publishers' Association and Hodder and Stoughton), Mr Charles Pick (Heinemann), Mr and Mrs Hans Schmoller, Miss Nina Bawden, Mr Rayner Unwin (George Allen and Unwin), Mr Alan Williams, Mr Ken Ashton (general secretary, National Union of Journalists), Mrs M Kelley, Mr H Cullen (Websters and Bookwise), Mr T P Callaghan and Mr D F Ramsay (John Menzies), Mr Ian Fisher (Freshfields), Mr Michael Geare (Bookseller), Mr Paul Scherer (Corgi Books), Mr Andrew Clay and Mr Garry Iceton (Richard Clay), Mr R Hobbs and Mr A Gourlay (Arup Associates), Mr Colin Smith (Peat Marwick), Mr Ron Clarke (Hazell, Watson and Viney).

Mr Hugh Gibson (Royal Doulton), Mr Ted Gregory (Selfridges), Mr Habib Sayegh and Mr Pierre Sayegh (Librarie du Liban), Mr Y Hoekstra and Mr G Bevering (Nelson and Lamm), Mr Nicholas Durbridge and Miss Linda Pooley (Copyrights), Miss June Formby, Miss Eunice Frost, Mr Stanley R Bramwhite (Book Trade Benevolent Society), Miss June Pipe (trade manager, Orbis Publishing), Mr Reginald Gowers (director, Ballerry Publishing), Mr F N Milledge (director, G E Jackson and Company), Mrs Betty Hartel and Sister J Ingleson.

Science report

Mystery of fish that change sex

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The catalogue of curious but rare scientific observations contains reports of fish and reptiles that are capable of undergoing spontaneous sex changes.

Once regarded as an oddity, there is accumulating evidence that the phenomenon occurs quite often. The new information comes from a series of long-term experiments that includes the recording of the behaviour of shoals of fish in inshore and deep-sea waters.

One of the discoveries was a particular type of reef fish which has only a single male in each school. When the male is lost the largest female begins acting like a male within a few hours, producing sperm within ten days.

Some other species repeatedly switch back and forth between the production of eggs and of sperm during a single mating. Among deep sea fish which only rarely encounter potential mates, reproduction is often only possible if one fish changes sex.

Such opportunistic sex changes have been found is species belonging to at least 14 families for conversions from female to male. The transition from male to female seems to happen less frequently, and has been seen in eight families.

Yet the process by which the sex change takes place remains a mystery. But fish and reptiles are regarded as much more susceptible to change than a mammal or bird.

For example, the sex of a maturing lizard may be determined by environmental temperature, while a school of trout can be made entirely male by adding a certain hormone to the water.

These extraordinary discoveries have been summarized by Dr Robert Warner, of the University of California at Santa Barbara, in recent issues of *American Scientist* and *The Journal of Evolution*.

Dr Warner and Dr Eric Fischer, of the University of Washington lead one of the major research teams in the subject. In particular, they have been working with a group of Kuna Indians, studying mating behaviour of reef fish at the San Blas field station of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

In studies of the bluehead wrasse, a common reef species, Dr Warner has found that mating behaviour depends on the size of the reef and the density of the population.

On a small reef with less than 200 wrasses, large males stake out their own spawning area, taking advantage of their size to defend it. In one day as many as 150 females may visit such a nest to deposit their eggs and have them fertilized.

University news

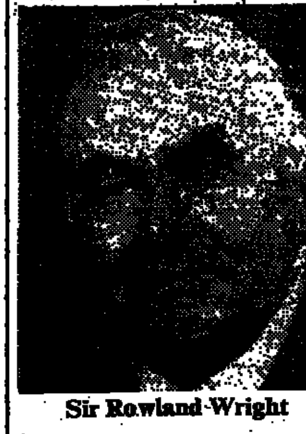
Oxford
Elections
St Antony's College:
Official fellowship (from April 1, 1984): J D Bailey, MA, DPhil, BA, MA (Melbourne); faculty fellowships: D Hopwood, MA, DPhil, from March 1984, L Tsoukalis, MA, DPhil, BA (Manchester) from April 1, 1984; research fellowships, Guo Fang, MA (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) from May 1, 1984, H Calaquot, BA (Columbia), from August 1984, Axel von dem Bussche (Alistair Horne research fellow 1984/85), R Cooke, BA (Nottingham), PhD (Sussex) (Max Hayward research fellow 1984/85); to emeritus fellowship from May 1984: A A Willott, MA; visiting fellowships: Professor Ellis Joffe, BA (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) MA (Hong Kong), (Israeli visiting fellow 1984/85), Dr Yehoshua Porath BA, MA, PhD (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), (Israeli visiting fellow 1984/85).
Nuffield College:
Official fellowship, from October 1, 1985: Dr D I D Gallie, BA, DPhil, MSc (Lond), reader in sociology, Warwick University; faculty fellowship: Mr C J Harris, BA, lecturer in public economics; open prize research fellowship: Dr A F Knapp, DPhil, BA (Cantab); associate membership: Mr M C Seltzer, BA, MA (New York University), PhD (Cornell).
Keble College:
Senior research fellowship in biological sciences: Stephen E Kearsey, BA (Oxon), DPhil; honorary fellowships: Peter M North, MA (Oxon), DCL, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, John T Hayes, MA (Oxon), PhD (London), Director, National Portrait Gallery.
SOMERVILLE COLLEGE
Emeritus Fellowship: Rachel J Banister, MA, BSc (Edinburgh).
Honorary Fellowship: Anne E Mueller, MA.
MAGDALEN COLLEGE
Official Fellowship as Lecturer in Physics from December 8: Dr J P Gregg, BA, DPhil, of Magdalen College.
MANSFIELD COLLEGE
Appointment Bursar from January 1, 1985: Mr David J Kinnersley, MA (Cambridge).

Aberdeen
Professor Alexander E Anton, formerly professor of jurisprudence at Glasgow University, has been appointed an honorary professor in the department of private law. Dr John R Sargent has been appointed honorary research professor in the university.

London
The Rev Brendan Callaghan, SJ, has been appointed Principal of Heythrop College in succession to the Rev Francis K Walker, SJ.

Father Callaghan, who will take up the appointment next March for a period of seven years, has been lecturing in psychology at the college since 1980.

Queen's, Belfast
Sir Rowland Wright, a former chairman of ICI and of Blue Circle Industries, has been elected chancellor of the university. Sir Rowland, who was awarded an honorary degree by Queen's in 1978, succeeds Sir Eric Ashby.



Sir Rowland Wright

Southampton
The university's next vice-chancellor is to be Professor Gordon Higginson, professor of engineering at Durham University.

He will take over from the beginning of next September from Professor John Roberts, vice-chancellor since 1979, who is returning to Merton College, Oxford, as warden.

Loughborough
The honorary degree of doctor of letters is to be conferred on Professor M. W. Beresford, professor of economic history at Leeds University.

Bath
Grants
Nuffield Foundation: £40,098 to Professor R. E. Klein and Ms E. Brooke Ross to study of the public regulation of private-sector residential care for the elderly.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr H. R. Wright, Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School, to be Headmaster of Gresham's School, Holt, from Michaelmas Term, 1985.
Mr John Rogers to be the Attorney-General of the Republic of Ireland, in succession to Mr Peter Sutherland, who is to become the republic's representative on the European Commission.
Mr Ian Jonathan Scott and Baroness Airey of Abingdon to be Trustees of the Imperial War Museum.

Stonyhurst College

The Governors of Stonyhurst College have pleasure in announcing the appointment of Dr Giles Mercer as Headmaster of Stonyhurst College in succession to Father Michael Bossey, S.J. Dr Mercer, who is at present the director of studies at Sherborne School, will take up his appointment in September 1985.

Calls to the Bar

The following student was omitted from the list of calls to the Bar in Michaelmas Term: A. J. Rawlence, BA (Liverpool Polytechnic), Inner Temple.

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM McKIE
Former Organist of Westminster Abbey

Sir William McKie, MVO, who died in Ottawa on December 1 at the age of 83, was Organist and Master of the choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1941 to 1963 and as such had responsibility for the music at the Coronation of the Queen.

William Neil MacKie was born in Melbourne on May 22, 1901, and was educated at Melbourne Grammar School, the Royal College of Music and Worcester College, Oxford where he was an organ scholar.

He was assistant music master at Radley College 1923-26, and director of music at Clifton College 1926-30 before returning to Australia where he was City Organist in Melbourne from 1931 to 1938. He returned to Oxford in 1938 as organist and instructor of music at Magdalen.

Appointed to the Westminster post in 1941 he did not actually take it up until after the war during which he served in the RAFVR.

One of his tasks was to build a choir school from scratch, which he did with Edward Thompson the headmasster. A perfectionist in all he did he always sought excellence and was distressed and frustrated when he did not find it. It was not until after much planning that the first Evensong for boys' voices was sung in June 1947.

Indeed it was not unknown for him to cancel an anthem some two minutes before going into the Abbey if he were not satisfied at the rehearsal and on one occasion at least he interrupted the singing and ordered the choir to begin again. He would never enlarge the repertoire at the cost of lowering standards.

In 1953 he was faced with the challenge of taking charge of the music for the Coronation which involved him not only in the matter of judgment in the selection of music within an ancient ritual but of encouraging different choirs to work together. The highly successful results of these labours earned him a knighthood; he had already been appointed MVO in 1948. During his period of office McKie was in charge of the music at three royal weddings.

William McKie was an impressive personality with a marked, and on occasions a somewhat daunting presence. Reserved, shy and at times inhibited it seemed as if there were hidden depths which even he himself had not plumbed and which found their authentic expressiion in music. His haunting, elaborate faux bourdon settings of Psalms 48 and 121 showed what he might have achieved as a composer had not a natural modesty persuaded him to confine his gifts to occasional pieces.

In 1956 he married Phyllis Ross, widow of Gerald Walter Birks.

KRAFFT EHRICKE

Krafft Ehricke, the German born rocket engineer who worked with Wernher von Braun on the V2 and like him later played a role in the development of the USA's missile and launch vehicle programmes, died at his home in La Jolla, California on December 11. He was 67.

Ehricke was born in Berlin in 1917 and graduated in aeronautical engineering at the Technical University, before going on to graduate work in nuclear physics and celestial mechanics at the University of Berlin.

He was serving as a tank platoon leader on the Eastern Front when he was brought back in 1942 to work on the V2 project becoming development engineer on the rocket's propulsion system at Peenemünde.

With other principal members of the V2 team he surrendered to the Americans at the end of the war and was to play a notable role in the postwar development of rocket propulsion systems for the US forces. After a period as a jet propulsion engineer with the US Army he worked at the Army Ballistic Missile Center at Redstone Arsenal before joining Bell Aircraft Co.

From 1956 to 1965 he was a designer with Convair where he had a major design and management role in the development of the Atlas rocket which became America's first intercontinental ballistic missile. He was also manager of the project which built the Centaur, used as an upper stage for many of the deep space probes.

Latterly Ehricke had been chief scientific adviser to the Space Division of the Rockwell International Corporation, build ers of the Apollo and the space shuttle.

Like von Braun, Ehricke had from his earliest years as a designer, looked beyond the drawing board to some of the bold space ventures which have in fact materialized.

MR STUART MOUNTFIELD

Stuart Mountfield, who died on December 1 at the age of 81, spent all his working life with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in Liverpool, and was General Manager and Secretary from 1957-62.

Educated at Merchant Taylors School, Crosby, he joined the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in 1918, and served in various administrative capacities, becoming General Manager and Secretary in 1957.

Mountfield represented the Port of Liverpool on a number of national committees concerning the port industry, and was recognized as being one of the leaders of the industry at the time.

He had an unrivalled knowledge of the history and work of the Port, and with a keen and analytical mind together with great personal qualities of friendship and integrity, he did outstanding work for the Dock Board and was well respected by everyone with whom he dealt.

He had the foresight to see how ports should be developed in the post-war era and, in particular, his name will always be linked with the important Tranmere Oil project, which he had successfully negotiated.

He was the author of a definitive work on the history of the Port of Liverpool entitled *Western Gateway*, which covered the first 100 years of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

MR DENIS KNIGHT

A correspondent writes:
Mr Denis Knight, who died on November 15, was, as County Planning Officer for Derbyshire until 1974, responsible for the reclamation of derelict land round many collieries in the north of Derbyshire which had been closed since the early 1950s, work which resulted in the establishment of green fields where there had previously been some dreadful scars across the landscape.

On his retirement he became founding secretary of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, and it was his guidance which set it on course to becoming one of the most successful and active historic buildings trusts in the country.

The Trust's achievements in restoring hundreds of buildings throughout the county are perhaps the best memorial to a man to whom many now owe the pleasant sight of sweeping landscapes and the equally satisfying sight of old buildings restored to a new life.

MR DUNCAN MACKINNON

Lord Keith of Castleacre writes:
Duncan Mackinnon, who has died at the age of 75 had lived a very full and successful life, somewhat curtailed as a result of an accident while fishing three years ago.

Educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, he joined Smith St Aubyn in 1932. He was chairman from 1955 to 1972. He was chairman of the London Discount Market Association from 1959 to 1961. In business he was wise and his judgements both sound and shrewd.

He served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the war. He was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 1949-50 and a Justice of the Peace.

A countryman at heart, and a considerable all-round sportsman, he was an excellent shot and a fine fisherman.

A large, happy man, he enriched any gathering in which he participated. Much loved by his family, he will be sadly missed by them and his many friends in all walks of life.

The Rt Rev Thomas Richards Parfitt, who died on December 10 at the age of 73, was Bishop in Madagascar from 1952 to 1961, and since 1962 had been Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Derby.

Church news

The Rev J E Lund, curate, Redmarshall, Bishopton with Great Stainton and Stillington with Grindon, diocese of Durham, to be Vicar, Hart with Elwick Hall, same diocese.
The Rev P R May, curate, St Thomas's, Lancaster, diocese of Blackburn, to be Vicar, St Barnabas, Darwen, same diocese.
The Rev P B Morgan, area Dean of Enfield and Vicar, St Andrews, Enfield, diocese of London, to be also a prebend of St Paul's Cathedral.
The Rev D J Munt, Rector, Litcham with Kempston with East and West Lexham, Mileham, Beeston-next-Mileham and Stanfield, diocese of Norwich, to be also Rural Dean of Brisley and Elmham, same diocese.
The Rev M T Peach, Vicar, St Nicholas's, Bishopwearmouth diocese of Durham, to be Vicar, St Hilda's, South Shields, same diocese.
The Rev J Pothen, Vicar, St Thomas's, Oakwood, diocese of London, to be also a prebend of St Paul's Cathedral.
The Rev M J Saward, Vicar, St Mary's, Ealing, diocese of London, to be also a prebend of St Paul's Cathedral.
The Rev J Smith, Rector, Axbridge with Shipham and Rowberrow, diocese of Bath and Wells, to be also Church of England chaplain to St John's Hospital, Axbridge, same diocese.
The Rev M Squires, Vicar, Bradshaw, diocese of Wakefield, to be Vicar, Ripponden with Rishworth and priest-in-charge, Barkisland, same diocese.
The Rev B Stocks, non-stipendiary priest, diocese of Newcastle upon Tyne, to be Vicar, Ferry Fryston, diocese of Wakefield.
The Rev M H Withead, Rector, Hendon and Holy Trinity, Sunderland, diocese of Durham, to be also an honorary canon of Durham Cathedral, same diocese.
The Rev J P Whitwell, priest-in-charge, Manor Park, St Michael and All Angels, diocese of Chelmsford, to be also assistant rural dean of Newham, same diocese.
The Rev A G Woods, Vicar, Charminster and Stinsford, diocese of Salisbury, to be also Rural Dean of Dorchester, same diocese.

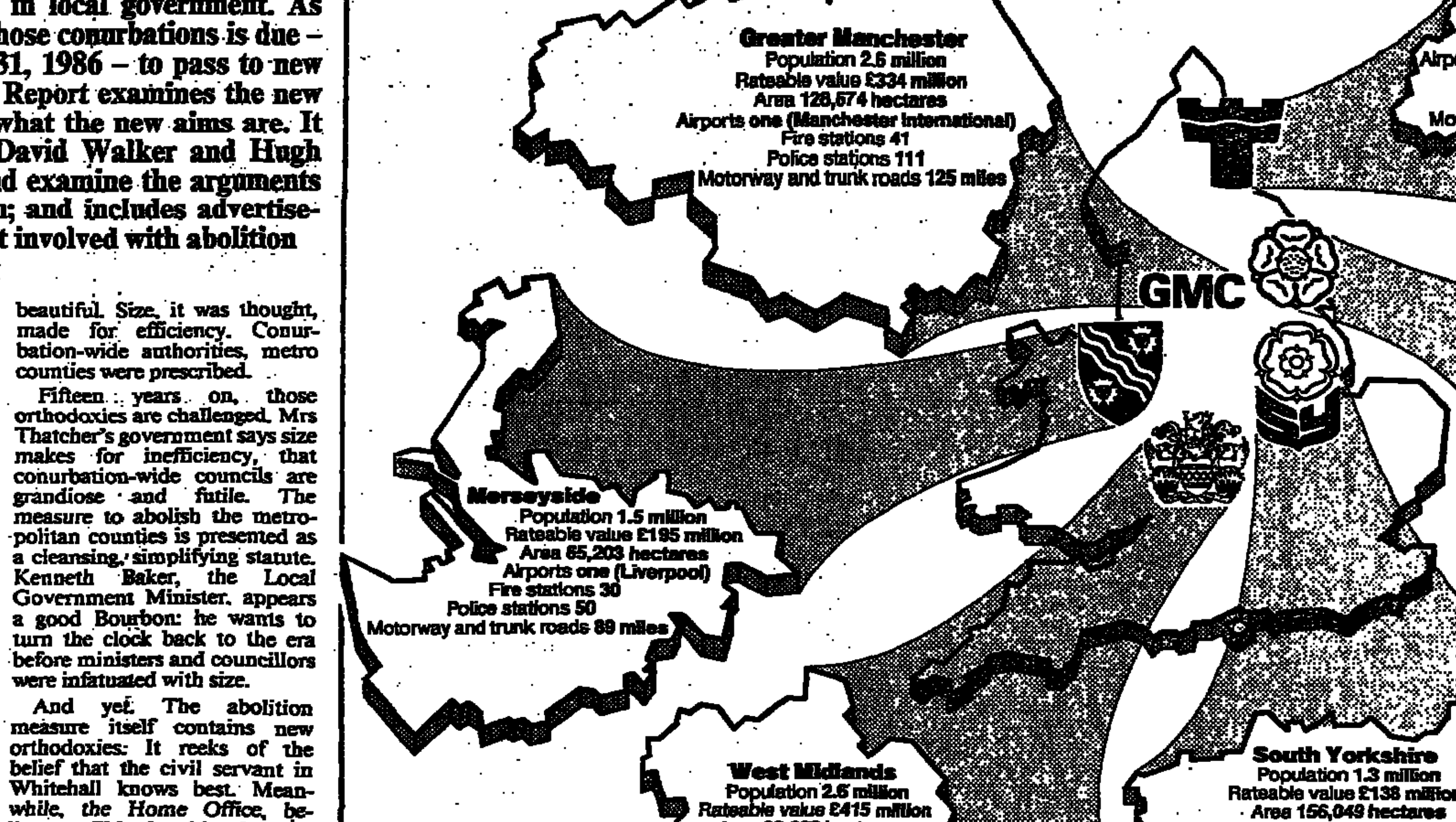
Resignations and retirements
The Rev C J Browne, Vicar, Stoke Damerel, Plymouth, diocese of Exeter, to retire in January.
The Rev E H Fiske, priest-in-charge, Kinsley, Diocese of Wakefield, to retire on Easter Day.
The Rev J E A Hoskins, Rector, Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard and Tockenham, diocese of Salisbury, to retire on April 30.
The Rev J V Peyton, Vicar, Farley Hill, St John and Baptist, diocese of St Albans, to resign on December 16.

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The metropolitan counties

MARCH 31 1986

Ten years ago the metropolitan counties were seen as a means to the ends of increasing efficiency, and democracy, in local government. As control of those conurbations is due – on March 31, 1986 – to pass to new authorities, this Special Report examines the new ends in view, and asks what the new aims are. It has been compiled by David Walker and Hugh Clayton, who present and examine the arguments for and against abolition; and includes advertisements from those most involved with abolition



David Hart

"Unless local government is organized to meet the needs of the future, and in particular is organized in units large enough to match the technical and administrative requirements of the services which it administers, its powers must diminish, and with it the power of local democracy. . . ."

This is evidently not the voice of Mrs Thatcher, although the statement goes on to specify a need for radical change. . . . "And only if such change occurs, and local government is organized in strong units with power to take major decisions, will present trends toward centralization be reversed, and local democracy secure its place as a major part of our democratic system."

These sentences come from a long-forgotten white paper, a historic milepost on the never-ending road to local-government reform. Produced by the Wilson government in 1970, *Reform of Local Government in England* (Cmnd 4276) embodied the results of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's exhaustive surveys. Big, in those days, was beautiful. Size, it was thought, made for efficiency. Conurbation-wide authorities, metro counties were prescribed.

Fifteen years on, those orthodoxies are challenged. Mrs Thatcher's government says size makes for inefficiency, that conurbation-wide councils are grandiose and futile. The measure to abolish the metropolitan counties is presented as a cleansing, simplifying statute. Kenneth Baker, the Local Government Minister, appears a good Bourbon: he wants to turn the clock back to the era before ministers and councillors were infatuated with size.

And yet. The abolition measure itself contains new orthodoxies: It reeks of the belief that the civil servant in Whitehall knows best. Meanwhile, *the Home Office*, believers still in the old orthodoxy about big units of administration, has insisted that the police and fire services continue to be organized on the large scale. Under the abolition plan the names and the composition of police and fire authorities will change but the boundaries and structure will continue. Ditto the Department of Transport and the passenger transport authorities.

AGAINST ABOLITION
John Gunnell, the leader of West Yorkshire County Council: fighting for a last-minute reprieve

If the Government has its way, the history of six metropolitan county councils will appear a botched experiment that lasted for only a decade.

Yet only the most sanguine supporter of the abolition plans could have any faith that the arrangements now being considered by Parliament will last. The Local Government (1984) Bill itself provides in one section after another for future tinkering in case the post-abolition arangements do not work out. The local-government scheme in the metropolitan counties after 1986 will be unstable.

It will be unstable because the issues pondered at such length in the 1960s by Lord Redcliffe-Maud and the other Royal Commissioners have not gone away. You cannot, argues John Gunnell, the Labour leader of West Yorkshire, fly in the face of socio-economic realities which bind the metropolitan counties together.

"Here in West Yorkshire," he says, "the cities of Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield share a common heritage derived from the growth of the wool-textile industry. Wakefield and Leeds, too, owe much of their early growth to wool textiles. To deny the underlying economic interdependence that makes a unity of each metropolitan county is to deny a reality that is confirmed each day in inter-firm relations and journey-to-work movements within the metropolitan areas."

Mr Gunnell here articulates perhaps the deepest strain in thinking about how local government should be organized in the urban areas of Britain – that there are "natural" geographical boundaries which local government reform, if it is to work, must observe.

Since before the end of the nineteenth century, observers of the boroughs and the city councils bemoaned the population. One of the triumphs of the Chamberlain era in governing Birmingham was the redrawing of the city's boundaries to take in outlying areas connected with the centre by economics and social relationships but excluded from municipal arrangements.

But, 60 years later, the further dispersal of population made the problem acute, even for Birmingham. The Local Government Commission for England reviewing the West Midlands area in 1961 found "the county boroughs, representing the main urban centres, are losing population to the peripheral areas... As a result, the county boroughs, as well as other authorities in the heart of the conurbation, are beginning to lose variety in the social and economic government and reduces the supply of voluntary leadership of all kinds."

In the period up to the 1960s local government had been changing in response to such *criticism. Territory* and people had been transferred from the jurisdiction of the shire counties to that of the city authorities – called county boroughs. Politics obtruded. The movement of people to suburbs in the shire counties around the urban areas benefitted the Conservatives; the containment of the county boroughs was often in the Conservative interest.

By 1960 there was a widespread if incoherent feeling in favour of local-government reform for the conurbations. Professor William Robson of the London School of Economics spoke for many in saying "nowhere do the local authorities correspond to the social, economic and political realities of the area . . . If a proper system of metropolitan government were introduced, the Alderly Edges would become part of the Greater Manchesters, to which they belong." Academics like him addressed themselves to rationalist blueprints of a reformed system, many of them recommending conurbation-wide councils.



FOR ABOLITION
Kenneth Baker, the minister for local government: front man for the abolition campaign

Parliament had not been entirely inert. The Macmillan government focussed first on the problems of government in London, setting up, in 1957, a royal commission under Sir Edwin Herbert. In 1958 it established wide-ranging commissions to look at the "special review areas": Tyneside, East Yorkshire, South East Lancashire, Merseyside and the West Midlands.

With hindsight, we might now wonder if these commissions could, by making specific recommendations for boundary changes, have avoided the grandiosity and delay of the Redcliffe-Maud exercise.

The commissions' work is best exemplified by the short-lived creation of a Borough of Teeside by absorption of the county borough of Middlesborough, a neat solution to the problem of matching council boundaries and socio-economic change along the River Tees; it would be a brave politician who argued that the present-day county of Cleveland makes more sense.

Instead, when Labour took office in 1964 the new minister for housing and local government, Richard Crossman, opted for a giant reform, an exercise by its very nature costly and unlikely to be implemented unless it won cross-party support.

As it turned out, Labour lost the 1970 election. Its White Paper died the death and only parts of the Redcliffe-Maud reform package survived to appear in the Heath government's own White Paper and 1972 local Government Act.

Redcliffe-Maud – the Royal Commission on Local Government in England which reported in 1969 – placed at the centre of

Continued on next page

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NIS KNIGHT

AN MACKINNON

An exciting package?

MARCH 31 1986

What seems to have happened in the early part of 1981 is that in the innermost recesses of Whitehall an implicit bargain was struck. To the cabinet committee set up to investigate abolition of the rates, Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, presented an alternative. Whitehall had, he knew, devoted many man-hours to finding an alternative to rates: the subject had been mulled over in detail by the Layfield Committee in the 1970s and since. There was no workable alternative that did not have insuperable political costs. Instead, Mr Heseltine suggested, why not a policy that looked exciting, made it appear that the Government was simplifying and slimming the structure of local government, and also diverted attention from rates. That policy was to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties.

The metropolitan counties were, of course, something of an afterthought. Abolition of the GLC had been discussed within and without the Conservative Party for some time. Sir Horace Cutler had, Mr Heseltine knew, worked as leader of the GLC to dismantle parts of it; the rest would come easy. But dismantling the GLC alone looked odd. With the metropolitan counties it became a political package.

An eerie echo of reforms of the 1880s, when the LCC and county boroughs were set up

At this stage, however, abolition was merely a policy option, something with which the Department of the Environment could armour itself when berated by the Prime Minister for failing to find a solution to the rates connundrum. So it remained until a general election became imminent in early 1983. The Prime Minister, we know from confidential sources, agitated until the last minute for a rates platform in the manifesto. The one she got, the rates-limitation plan now embodied in the 1984 Rates Act, was a late starter. Abolition of the metropolitan counties was thrown into the manifesto to fill a gap.

At the last minute Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment from January until June 1983, began to work on the practical implications of abolition.

His place was taken by Mr Patrick Jenkin, a dutiful if unimaginative servant of the Prime Minister and the manifesto. The Conservative manifesto said: "The metropolitan councils have been shown to be a wasteful and unnecessary tier of government. We shall abolish them and return most of their functions to the boroughs and districts.

In October last year appeared *Streamlining the Cities*, the White Paper exposing for the first time the detail of the arrangements for replacing the counties.

It is worth teasing out the principles which the Government said it based its plan upon.

According to the White Paper they were:

- The temper of the 1980s, unlike the 1970s, was anti-size, dismayed by big organizations (such as the National Health Service and the Civil Service). In the 1980s small is beautiful.
- The purposes of the 1972 Local Government Act had been realized in the shire counties but not in the conurbations. The metro counties had failed to find a role. They had searched for a role but in so doing had trespassed on the responsibilities of the lower-tier districts.
- They spent more than they should.
- Abolition would save money without cutting services.
- Abolition would "provide a system which is simpler for the public to understand, in that responsibility for virtually all local services will rest with a single authority".

Streamlining the Cities was, the government averred, open for consultation, which was absorbed into a second version of the White Paper published last July. In a preamble Mr Jenkin bemoaned "misleading advertising" by the threatened county councils arguing that "abolition will mean the decentralization of powers to the local level and the end to an expensive and unnecessary two-tier system of local government".

By now it had become obvious that local government reform was the centrepiece of the social policy legislation of Mrs Thatcher's second term in office.

Late last month the Local Government Bill was published containing the substance of the abolition plan. The Government intends it to become law by next summer.

And is that an end to the metropolitan counties? The demographic pressures are now very different from those which in the 1950s and 1960s pushed politicians towards big conurbation-wide authorities; the fashion of the 1980s dislikes "corporatism" of the kind espoused in the *1972* Local Government Act . . . Yet the motive forces of local-government reform, political, social, and economic, have not been stilled by the government's frenzy of acitivity on the local front; rather, they have been quickened.

In the recent J. R. James Memorial Lecture (James was formerly chief planner at the Environment Department) the geographer Peter Hall compellingly listed the factors making for change in the urban landscape. They carried, he argued, an eerie echo of the economic and social changes of another great decade of local government reforms, the 1880s, which saw the creation of the London County Council and the county boroughs.

Look around, Professor Hall said, at the signs of urban decay. Perhaps the solution lay in dispersal, even acceleration of the population and migration trends seen in urban Britain in the post war period that led to the New Towns and the overspill towns and the satellite estates.

Maybe. But Professor Hall's and most other versions of urban change will sooner or later necessitate a revision of local-government boundaries, perhaps even a re-creation of a conurbation-wide political authority whether it is to build houses or roads to permit the movement of people. If that day comes, the abolition of the metropolitan counties a decade after their creation will look like an expensive error.

DW

The reform that led to friction

A disinterested observer looking at the map of local govenment in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher came to power might have thought that the era of reform had indeed ended, that the map was settled for a generation.

With the exceptions of the Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles and of Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom was entirely covered by a two-tier system of local government. Yes, the creation of the metropolitan counties had been expensive. "Inheriting staff and equipment from as many as 33 authorities in 1974 was a nightmare in West Yorkshire," recalls John Gunnell, the county's labour leader.

Yes, there was sniping at the counties from the metropolitan districts, some still smarting at the loss of their all-purpose status as county boroughs; others (Sandwell, Sefton, Calderdale) still struggling to find an identity blamed the new structure of counties for their malaise.

But there was no inkling of the political storms to come. In 1979 indeed several of the metropolitan counties were Conservative (had been *designed to go Conservative* on an alternating cycle, cynical critics of the 1972 reorganization said). South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear were solid Labour; but politics in Merseyside and the West Midlands were more volatile.

On the face of it, the arrangements of 1972 – far from perfect – seemed to have answered the old yearning for conurbation-wide political authority even if under the 1972 Act the county councils' writ ran only in highly restricted areas.

Since 1974 when the new structure came into being there had been frictions. The metropolitan counties and the metropolitan districts had quarrelled over the exact definition of their respective planning powers. Early on, several metropolitan *counties* had made the districts their agents for things like road maintenance.

Alan Alexander of Reading University notes however that "within a few years, such county councils as Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands wanted to make a reality of their statutory position as sub-regional authorities, and one way to do this was to attempt to withdraw agencies and begin to provide services directly. Once again the motivation was status rather than politics."

To say there was no love lost between the metropolitan districts and counties would perhaps be underestimating the degree of antagonism. The committee representing the metropolitan districts of the West Midlands recently said bluntly that there could easily be "a reversion to proper all-purpose district authorities on the model of the old county boroughs, with the districts working together where necessary."

However, in 1979 there was peace. The Conservative Manifesto of May 1979 never mentioned the metropolitan counties (and scarcely mentioned local government). There was no secret abolition plans in ministers' baggage. What went so quickly wrong?

The abolition issue is inseperable from the government's determination to reduce council spending in aggregate and, following from that, to apply cash limits to the spending "profligate" local authorities; it is vitally linked with the unsuccessful bid to redeem a promise made by Mrs Thatcher earlier in her political career to scrap property rates.

DW

The long and relentless countdown



Tom King: Started work on the implications of abolition; was succeeded by Patrick Jenkin

The countdown to abolition has gone like this:

- **The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 for the first time compared council expenditure with centrally defined assessments; the goverment made unfavourable *comparisons* for *some of the* metro counties**
- **1980: The Government ordered Whitehall to investigate an alternative to the rates in the finance of local government as a way of realizing the promise made in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher when she was Opposition spokesman on the Environment committing the Conservatives to abolishing rates**
- **May 1981: All six metro counties go Labour**
- **June 1981: The *Financial Times* reported "the Government decided in principle to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan counties in England"**
- **Autumn 1981: The Governmet published a green paper, *Alternatives to Domestic Rates***
- **December 1981: Decision by *the Law Lords called into* question powers of upper-tier councils in transport management**
- **1982: A Cabinet committee juxtaposed abolition of rates and abolition of metro counties as policies**
- **Winter 1982: The abolition plan came under attack from the Home Office which feared for its effect on the police and fire services.**
- **Spring 1983: The Cabinet decided to go ahead with abolition.**
- **June 1983: The Conservative manifesto promised an end to GLC and metropolitan counties by 1986.**
- **August 1983: The Government's long-awaited Rates White Paper spelled out the details of rate-capping.**
- ***October 1983:* Abolition White Paper published claiming large scale savings in cost and manpower.**
- **December 1983: The Government published its Rates Bill and acknowledged it as an instrument for controlling the rates of the metropolitan counties (then why abolish us, asked the county leaders).**
- **Spring 1984: The Government did cartwheels explaining how the arts and grants to voluntary organizations would not be affected by abolition even at the expense of greater Treasury contributions to provincial theatres and museums and the Arts Council.**
- **June 1984: The House of Lords secured major changes in the "paving bill" but it became law in August.**
- **October 1984: At the Conservative Party conference Patrick Jenkin announced wide-ranging inquiries into local government finance (the abolition of the rates again?) and the management of Labour-controlled councils.**
- **November 1984: The abolition bill is published.**
- **December 1984: The Bill gets its second reading in the House of Commons despite vocal Conservative opposition.**

DW

'Their role does not justify the cost'

Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, has become a key figure in the drive to abolish the metropolitan county councils. When the White Paper *Streamlining The Cities* was published last year Mr Baker was still Minister for Information Technology. But after the heavy weather made in Parliament this summer of the first stage of the countdown to abolition, the Prime Minister made Mr Baker Minister for Local Government.

It was freely made known from Downing Street that Mr Baker had been moved because the Government was worried about the propaganda gains being made by the Greater London Council and the other threatened metropolitan authorities.

Mr Baker, who was once a London MP, knew it well. He soon showed that despite many misgivings among Conservatives he was fully committed to abolishing the threatened councils on time and replacing them with broadly the structure outlined in 1983.

They included Conservative councillors such as Irvine Patnick, the Opposition leader on South Yorkshire County Council, and Michael King, leader of Trafford Borough Council in Greater Manchester. Mr King is one of many Conservative councillors in districts who are keen to take on county functions after abolition.

Mr Baker insists that the metropolitan authorities are not needed because in 10 years they have not found a role that justifies their cost. He is convinced that their elimination will bring savings.

He says that there is wide scope for saving among the threatened councils because the extent of their combined "overspend" above what the Government thinks they should spend is far above the excess for other types of council. That blanket statement obscures the fact that among the threatened councils most of the spending above Government targets comes from the GLC and not the metropolitan county councils.

But Mr Baker adds that the threatened councils have been increasing their workforces while their responsibilities have been dwindling. He said: Greater Manchester County Council have increased staff by 8 per cent since 1981 and West Midlands County Council by 6 per cent since 1982.

"The scope for major policy savings is clearly substantial," Mr Baker continues. "Economies are there to be made to the lasting benefit of ratepayers in the metropolitan areas.

But he always returns to the point repeated by ministers throughout the year. It is that abolition is not being proposed simply to make savings. The idea is to bring local government closer to the electors by placing more powers in the hands of district councillors.

Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

The reorganization . . . and the operation

From previous page

his critique of the existing scheme the damage done to the county boroughs in the urban areas by the shift in population to outer areas. A second strand in the report's conclusions was the division of public services into those best handled by conurbation wide authorities (specially around Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham) and more local "personal" services. Roughly, planning, transport and water supply fell into the first category and education, social work and housing into the latter.

Mr Heath's government was not Bourbon; it amended rather than jettisoned the Redcliffe-Maud reform scheme. While Redcliffe-Maud had reluctantly accepted the need for two "tiers" of local government in the conurbations the 1971 White Paper (Cmnd 4584, *Reform of Local Government in England: Government Proposals for Reorganization*) enthusiastically embraced the principle.

The problem of the conurbations was to be dealt with by a mixture of strategic county-wide councils and local districts springing from the former county boroughs. The Conservatives innovated by advocating county councils for South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear; they discarded Labour's preference for a new conurbation-county of South Hampshire covering Southampton and Portsmouth.

David Walker
Social Policy Correspondent



Are we all sure we know exactly who does what?

MARCH 31 1986

How ¢ you react if ou are enraged y your local ouncil? Assume, for example that you hæ just discoverl that permission has been gi'n for a new effluent-processin plant within an embarrassing istance of your property. nagine, alternatively, that wn the dustman swings your neighbour's bin on to his shulders, he always manages t leave some of its contents n your hydrangeas.

You might say: I' shl write to my councillor and cmplain to Parliament." But yc would be much more likely tsay: "I shall write to my IP and complain to the euncil." Somehow, MPs mana; to be identifiable personalits in a way that councillors n'er are.

Local government ner fails to be confusing A city council can at the same time be district council – bn cannot then be a town council

Likewise Parliament ca be a much more real and ingible institution than the cotents of the town hall down the rad.

But if local governmt itself is a relatively unknon quantity, its most recent eations are the least known ¢ål. How many voters who liv south of Birmingham know where to look on the map for ach of the six metropolitan conty councils that the Gvernment intends to abolish?

Is it Wear and Iersey that they want to get riof, or is it North Lakeside? Wen we talk in casual converstion about local government ve usually speak of "the cuncil" even though most of s are represented by morehan one. As for the identity opur councillors or the namepf the wards they represent, nost of us probably neither now nor care. That, at least, s what local government votig figures suggest.

One reason for lack of interest is that leal government never fails to ł confusing. A city council ca at the same time be a distri council. But if it is, it cannotlso be a town council, which s an altogether different creatu.

A county n be a shire county even i its name does not end with "iire". A densely-populated city like Bristol or Southampton can be classed in local government terminology as "non-metropolitan". An English county council can act as an education authority, but not as a health or water authority. A non-metropolitan district council can be a planning authority, but not an education authority.

Of course, the system is supposed to be simpler than it was, with the elimination of such awkwardly placed or shaped entities as Rutland and Middlesex. Out they went, and in came the single county of Hereford and Worcester, not to mention other newcomers like Cleveland and the six metropolitan counties.

The Government has assured its nervous supporters in the shires that those six are the only county councils that it wants to abolish. Each of the other English counties is classed as a shire county even if its name is Kent or Cornwall.

One of the Government's justifications for abolition is that there is a key difference between the two species of county councils. There are few important tasks which are discharged by the county authorities in the shires and the district councils in the metropolitan areas.

That makes the metropolitan authorities smaller in spending terms than their shire counterparts. The functions which are undertaken by the different authorities are few, but expensive. The main one is education. One of the reasons for the different allocations of tasks between the shire and metropolitan areas is based on differences in revenue – raising powers.

Costly services like education are left in the metropolitan areas to big district authorities like Birmingham or Manchester city councils because their large populations and high incidence of commercial property gives them a large base from which to raise rates.

But the metropolitan county councils also have large rate bases, because each one spreads over several large cities. That, in the view of ministers, has led them to cast about for some sort of "strategic" function simply to try to justify their continued existence.

The key to the Government's case for abolition is that the metropolitan county councils are large organizations with little to do and nothing which cannot be done more cost-effectively by someone else. The councils reply that much of their work is unsuitable for sharing among a number of smaller bodies with competing aims.

The case the anti-abolitionists like to cite is the disagreement about the future structure of an airport: the two authorities responsible were at loggerheads

The case they all like to quote is that of Leeds-Bradford airport. They point to a recent disagreement about the future structure of the airport in which the two city authorities responsible for it were at loggerheads. That kind of dispute could be duplicated many times, the county authorities say, if their responsibilities are divided among smaller councils.

One of their difficulties in the debate about abolition has been that the Labour and Liberal parties, while opposed to the principle and mechanism of the abolition programme, have clearly divergent views about what to do if the threatened councils really are scrapped.

Each party is much more committed to rescuing the GLC than to reviving the metropolitan county councils. That is because neither party sees the metropolitan authorities fitting into its plans for administration of the largest provincial cities into the next century.

HC

Who is responsible?

(Key: C=County council, D=District council)

Service	Met counties	Shire counties
Education	D	C
Personal social services (e.g. children in care; homes for the elderly)	D	C
Libraries	D	C
Council house building	D	D
Structure plans	C	C
Public footpaths	C & D	C & D
Organizing allotments	D	D
Collecting rubbish	D	D
Dumping rubbish	C	C
Births, deaths and marriage registration	D	C
Slaughterhouses	D	D
Police	C	C
Fire brigades	C	C



Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear: the resultant quangos will be "sinister"

Fantasy or fact: the rows over finance

Labour opponents of abolition have had plenty to work on in the past year. First was the Government's failure to back with detailed figures its claim that abolition would bring savings. Then there was the embarrassing undercurrent of dislike for the plan in the Conservative party. Finally there was the Local Government Bill, which is designed to give the Government power to scrap seven councils in 1986.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Bill proposed to give ministers more powers than those open to Parliament itself. But there are plenty of no less vociferous opponents of abolition in the threatened authorities themselves.

One of the most forthright is Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester County Council, who calls the Bill "a piece of gross deception employed by a Government contemptuous of the facts."

"It swings right into the realms of fantasy in its shoddy Bill by claiming that most services will be transferred to district and borough councils," he continues. "The Government also makes the fatuous claim that abolition will save £50m across the six metropolitan areas.

"But the top financial consultants, Coopers & Lybrand, concluded that the new administration would most likely cost up to £61m a year more. Abolition is bound to cost the ratepayers more. The proposed structure is patently more complex. Local accountability will inevitably be eroded."

Mr Clarke dismisses Government claims that abolition will streamline local administration. "Remove a source of conflict and tension. Save money and create a system simpler for the public to understand. Rubbish, all of it, and shown to be downright dishonest by the evidence from Coopers and PA Management that we have been forced to commission."

He predicts that if abolition goes ahead the "residuary" quangos planned by the Government for each metropolitan county will cause extra confusion for ratepayers.

Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear county council, calls the residuary quangos "a new and sinister element in local government." He predicts that they would consist of a handful of Government appointees, "no doubt benefiting from fancy salaries."

One of the main spokesmen for the metropolitan county councils is John Gunnell, a 51-year-old science teacher who was leader of the opposition on West Yorkshire County Council until Labour took control three year ago.



Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester: "It's gross deception"

He has challenged ministers to submit their claims for the savings to be won from abolition to the Audit Commission. The commission is a quango appointed to monitor efficiency in local government. Mr Gunnell is a member of it.

He says that the gap between the large saving claimed by ministers and the much smaller amount estimated by Coopers & Lybrand is too wide to be left without close independent analysis. But the Cooper's figures are backed by detailed investigation of the Government's proposals and their impact on the ground while ministers have given little evidence to support their claims.

"Surely it would be a massive act of faith to accept unquestionably the idea of any saving at all," Mr Gunnell says. "The most likely course of events is that the extra cost of abolition will increase to £69m. This contrasts rather starkly against the Government's present claims of £50m savings."

HC

Jobs in the firing line: Staff at the date of the abolition announcement

County	Less than 20 years	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	over 60	Total
Greater Manchester	155	1073	1292	1104	1171	493	5288
Tyne & Wear	66	411	434	362	340	119	1832
South Yorkshire	233	1011	994	700	737	134	3709
West Yorkshire	257	1009	1452	1275	1181	313	5497
West Midlands	179	992	987	625	465	97	3345
Merseyside	136	545	681	578	558	278	2776
Totals	1036	5041	5840	4644	4352	1434	22,447

Source: Local Government Chronicle

The abolition juggernaut: running over its allies?



The race to abolish the metropolitan county councils on time is well underway. When Kenneth Baker became Minister for Local Government in the autumn, he said several times that the six county authorities and the Greater London Council would definitely cease to exist on March 31 1986.

It was significant that he said it so emphatically. It was doubly significant that doing so had a noticeable effect on the climate of discussion about the fate of the councils. That effect was a measure of the Government's disarray in the summer, at the time of the defeat in the Lords of the Government's original plans for paving the way next year for abolition the year after.

Mr Baker's arrival, and the successful Conservative boycott of Ken Livingstone's council by-election in London, helped to give the impression that the initiative had been wrested from the opponents of abolition.

The publication of the Local Government Bill in November led some of those opponents to believe that they had a good chance of regaining it. The inclusion of the notorious Clause 93 helped to breathe new life into the flagging campaign against abolition.

"The Secretary of State", it says, "may at any time by order make such incidental, consequential, transitional or supplementary provision as appears to him to be necessary or expedient for the general purposes or any particular purposes of this Act . . . or for giving full effect to it."

It means that ministers want to be allowed to trump anything that emerges unexpectedly from the hand of any of the threatened councils. They also want to be able to do it quickly, without lingering for too long over parliamentary niceties as the stated abolition deadline set draws nearer.

The moment chosen for abolition is only 15 months away. But most of the new bodies that are supposed to take on county work after abolition are expected to start work six months before the final cut-off date. The Government has therefore allowed little more than nine months in which to secure enactment of the Bill and start the final countdown.

Mr Baker complained in November that the GLC had not told the Government who had booked the Royal Festival Hall in London for the first months after abolition. Ministers know that there is still much for them to learn about the working of the metropolitan county councils and the district authorities that are supposed to take over many of their tasks.

Though much will go straight to the district councils, each metropolitan county will also have joint boards of district councillors to run police forces, fire brigades and bus services with other local public-transport operations. Each county will also have a "residuary body" or special quango to handle the property of the abolished councils and their staff pension funds. Each of the quangos will be told to prepare to abolish itself after a few years.

What it all means is that the present dual pattern of directly-elected metropolitan and district councils will be replaced by a more complicated system. Ministers claim that it will be a more locally-accountable system because councillors from each district will have more influence over local affairs.

The district councils will stay as they are, but will do more work with more staff. Councillors in each district will choose a few of their number to serve on each joint board. The "residuary body" will work in each county alongside the district councils and joint boards. The counties will exist only as names on the map of England and as components of postal addresses.

Opponents of abolition claim that the new system will be less democratic because work now done by directly-elected councillors will be done by members of joint boards who will be working at one remove from the voters. They see it as part of the steady removal of local influence from local administration. The Government has already cleared local councillors out of water authorities. Now it is trying to clear them out of the county councils as well.

The most difficult part of the operation for the Government will be making sure that all the arrangements are ready on time. The Liberal Party has already told ministers that they cannot possibly have everything in place by the end of March 1986.

The threatened councils and the Labour-led district authorities which are meant to take powers from them are still refusing to give ministers the information they need to make precise handover arrangements. The Government knows what it wants to do with the GLC and the metropolitan county councils and when and why it wants to do it.

But there is plenty of evidence that ministers do not know how they are going to do it. The document described officially as "a full statement of the Government's estimates" of the savings to be won from abolition turned out to be nothing of the kind. The document, issued at the end of November, was just a summary of the complaints made by ministers about the threatened councils over many months.

The worst outcome for the Government would be a parliamentary defeat in the coming months which would force ministers to change the abolition programme so much that the threatened councils would sail through almost intact. But even if abolition went ahead on time, the Government could be left with an administrative quagmire in the period leading up to the next general election.

HC

BREAKING DOWN THE COST OF BREAKING UP

Though most of them probably do not know it, ratepayers in the metropolitan counties have spent thousands of pounds this year on surveys and estimates of what abolition will or will not save. Each side in the argument has tried to bolster its case by hiring consultants or using officers to examine the effects of abolition followed by a transfer of powers to the district councils. A clear pattern has emerged throughout the confusing mass of reports. Those commissioned by the metropolitan county councils themselves have predicted that the system proposed by the Government to follow abolition will produce only small savings, if any, and will complicate local administration instead of making it simpler. Those commissioned wholly or partly by Conservative-led districts have suggested that abolition would produce useful savings. Each forecast has been greeted with derision by opponents and warm approval by supporters. The ratepayers have paid their money. Now they can take their choice.

Some of the most effective material against abolition has been produced for the metropolitan county councils by Coopers & Lybrand Associates at a cost of more than £350,000. Their five reports have done much to shake the confidence of government assurances that abolition will bring savings.

There is still a wide gap. Ministers believe that abolition of the metropolitan county councils will save £50m a year at a cost of more than 3,000 jobs, although the basis for that estimate has not been given. Coopers & Lybrand say that the most ministers can realistically expect is a saving of £2m a year and the loss of 500 jobs. That depends on a high level of cooperation among district councils after abolition, otherwise there may be a heavy cost instead.

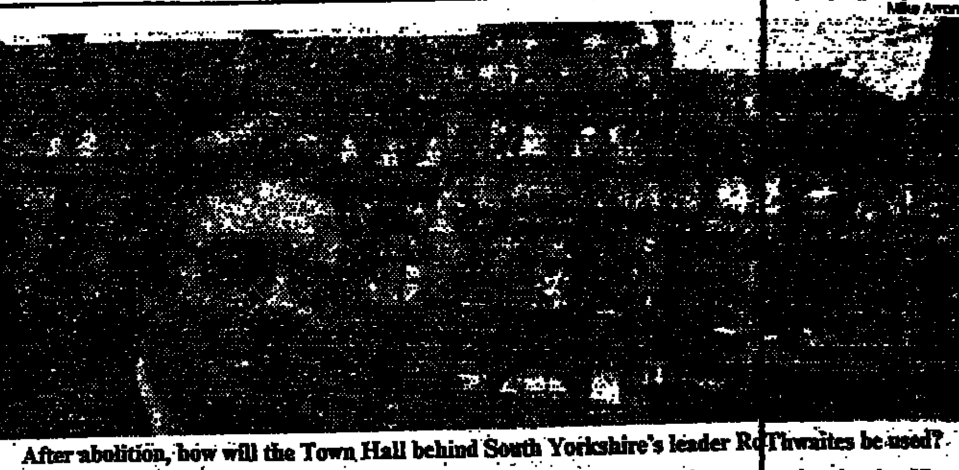
Coopers & Lybrand have revised their figures now that the Government has published the Local Government Bill and they believe that extra costs must be built in now that ministers are prepared to allow district councils to withdraw from joint boards.

Birmingham City Council has already said that it wants its own police force outside the proposed West Midlands county joint board for policing. Wirral District Council on Merseyside wants its own fire brigade.

These are the Coopers & Lybrand estimates of the impact of abolition:

	Assuming good cooperation among districts	Assuming poor cooperation among districts
Old figures	Saving £4m-£9.5m a year	Extra cost of £36m-£61m a year
New figures	Saving £2m a year to extra cost of £14m	Extra cost of £38m to £69m

December 83 Officers of most district councils in West Midlands	Abolition of West Midlands County Council and handover to the districts could cost between 750 and 900 jobs and thus save between £7m and £8.5m a year. Costings were done without county council help and on general assumptions about how much county work the districts would accept after abolition.
April 84 Officers of Bury, Rochdale, Stockport and Trafford district councils.	Scrapping Greater Manchester County Council could save £11.5m a year at late 1983 prices, including £3m from highways and almost £5m from policy changes.
April 84 Price Waterhouse for six Conservative-led district councils.	Extrapolating from estimates in three metropolitan counties there could be a saving of £35m a year at a cost of 3,500 jobs across all six.
September 84 Staff at Institute of Local Govt Studies, University of Birmingham, commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.	Survey of 60 existing examples of joint board activity among district councils suggests that future boards would be dominated either by officers or by disputes among participating councils, or both.
October 84 PA Management Consultants commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.	The new structure will be more complicated and less accountable to local people. The main weakness of the new system will be its lack of ways of resolving conflicts between different interests and areas in a metropolitan county. No sign of any improvements in local services, and a strong chance of deterioration.
November 84 Coopers & Lybrand, commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.	This survey of the financial impact of abolition is by far the longest and most lavish of them all, and has been issued in parts through the year. Its main conclusion is that the savings will at best be small and will depend very much on the amount of cooperation between successor authorities. A low level of cooperation could turn the savings into heavy costs.



After abolition, how will the Town Hall behind South Yorkshire's leader Ro Thwaites be used?

Nightmare of hasty decisions feared

If officialdom in the metropolitan counties has an ideal type, it surely must be Ray O'Brien, the burly chief executive of the Merseyside county council, who after a noteworthy career in local government law and finance returned in 1977 to his native Liverpool actively to promote not only his council but also the interests of the urban sprawl he can see from his multi-storied office hard by those distinctive towers of the Liver Building on the edge of the River Mersey.

Mr O'Brien stands out for his wit (not a quality in ready supply in the nation's town halls) and his forcefulness – before which more than one faint-hearted politician has quailed. In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots of 1981 when train loads of Whitehall civil servants and ministers visited Liverpool some were taken aback by Mr O'Brien's fierce independence of mind. No visitor to the county council is left in any doubt, however, about his unswerving loyalty to his local authority and to its role, past and future, in retrieving Liverpool and its environs from social and economic decay.

By background, however, Mr O'Brien is a man of the shire counties rather than the urban areas. He was born and educated in Merseyside. After Oxford and legal training he worked first for Cheshire County Council then Staffordshire before achieving a national reputation in Nottinghamshire where he became chief executive in 1974.

Perhaps more typical of the trajectory of metropolitan county officials is the background of Derrik Hender, chief executive of the West Midlands, who rose through the government of the cities – he was both treasurer and later town clerk of Coventry – before joining the county council at its inception in 1973.

Mr Hender is well known to his colleagues in the municipal world through a succession of articles in *Local Government Chronicle* in which he has abandoned the traditional diffidence of the town clerk and argued strongly against the Government's plans for the metropolitan counties.

Here is the flavour of a recent contribution, discussing the establishment by the government of joint boards of the districts to run country-wide services. "The government is quite right to impose tight controls over the boards because it is the only chance of making the system work and local democracy takes second place to expediency".

He went on: "Is there not the chance that some new thoughts on government for the metropolitan areas will emerge? Thoughts suitable for the future rather than the resurrection of forms discarded in the last century.

"The greatest condemnation of the proposals is that they are quaintly old fashioned".

Emulating Mr Hender in the publicity stakes, is the chief executive of South Yorkshire, recently promoted into the job from his post as county secretary. During the passage of the "paving" bill he is credited with an effective address to an all-party meeting in the House of Lords since, in print, he has railed against the "bureaucratic nightmare" being created by the government's hasty decisions.



Merseyside leader Neville Gordrein: Still fighting on

A more recent arrival at county level is Williman Miles, new chief executive of West Yorkshire who arrived earlier this year from Gateshead. His predecessor, generally acknowledged as one of the ablest county officials, was Rodney Brooke, who has made the interesting transition from Labour county to Conservative borough in moving to become chief executive of Westminster City Council on London.

To be categorized but by no means dismissed as among the quieter officials are the chief men of Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear. The latter, Jim Gardner, is like other politicians and officials in the North East in often being content to do their best by their region without being tempted daily or weekly to board the Inter-City 125 for the capital or stand on platforms or dip their pens in controversy.

Tony Harrison, chief executive of Greater Manchester, says he will go on "until the ship sinks". Indeed he has already served longer than all of this colleagues at the metro county level. Before taking the top job at the county in 1976 he was director general of the regional passenger transport authority. Before the reorganization of local government buses and trains in the Manchester area were run by a board covering SELNEC – South East Lancashire and North East Cheshire.

In a tribute to his staff during these trying days before abolition, Mr Harrison speaks of "enormous amounts of professionalism and loyalty." The demands for information from centre and districts poses strains on officials who have their own jobs to do. "You don't let personal feelings on the abolition issue get in the way," he argues. "At some stage someone has to be responsible for the practical workings of the services. For the time being that's our job. And we'll go on doing it."

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Police committees: are they a force for good?

MARCH 31 1986

At the Stockholm conference of the International Union of Local Authorities last year the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' police and fire committee, Edwin Shore, spoke of a balance betwæn the powers and resources the police needed to combat crime and assure public order and a need to protect the rights and liberties of the individual.

"It is in the interest of the police," Mr Shore said "that they should actively seek the involvement of the local community. High levels in the incidence of crime, violence, and lawlessness generally are related to poor housing, inadequate education, unemployment, lack of leisure facilities, and environmental conditions.

"An understanding of these conditions enables the police to carry out their duties in a sensitive manner. The more the police become part of the local community and are identified with it the easier their task must become."

Conventional wisdom? The sentiments would be endorsed on all sides of politics, not least by the Home Secretary and his officials who have said similar things themselves on many occasions.

But Mr Shore continued. "The efforts of local government to improve services and the environment are as crucial to law and order as are the efforts of the police to preserve law and order.

"By the same token there ought also to be accountability to the local electorate for the police service. This is as much a part of local government as all the other interdependent services based upon and provided by the local authority."

Again, in public at least, the Home Office would take no exception to this. But how should that accountability be exercised and by whom? Mr Shore also happens to be chairman of the West Midlands police authority. He stands for the role of directly elected county councillors in the metropolitan areas in checking and monitoring the work of the police. It is a role the Government is about to abolish.

Checking and monitoring the police can, on occasion, be a controversial business. In South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester or in Merseyside or the other counties, the representatives of the local community – county councillors – have come into conflict with both senior police officers and the Home Office. In Councillor Shore's terms, such controversy is the stuff of "community relations" in the broadest sense. Take it away and the balance between law and freedom is unsettled. The replacement on police committees of county councillors by nominees of the districts will not do, say the counties – that is democracy at one remove, a recipe for public obfuscation and alienation.



Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Peter Wright in the middle of the mining dispute

The metropolitan districts, it must be said, take a different view. Ron Watson, leader of Conservative-controlled Sefton, which covers Crosby and Southport, said recently that joint boards would contain elected councillors from councils which have annual elections "and can fairly claim to be much more accountable than the present Merseyside county."

There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between a chief constable and councillors

Some examples from the past few years make the point that, comfortable or not, the police service in the threatened counties is under scrutiny:

● The miners' strike. Since the beginning of the dispute both the West and South Yorkshire police committees have actively surveyed the operations of their respective chief constables, as have the other metropolitan county councils when officers from their forces have done picket duty. In South Yorkshire matters came to a head in early summer when the police committee tried to disallow spending by the chief constable in connection with the strike without their prior approval. The matter was taken before the High Court where Lord Justice Watkins said: "I want to make sure that the chief constable is free to take whatever steps he believes are necessary to maintain law and order."

● In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots, the Merseyside police committee wanted to call the chief constable, Kenneth Oxford, to account for his operational decisions and the provision of anti-riot gear, CS gas and baton rounds. Lady Simey, the police committee chairman, said strained relations with Mr Oxford were due to the councillors trying to exercise their responsibilities as set down by law. "There has to be political control", she said.

● There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between James Anderton, chief constable of Greater Manchester, and the Labour councillors. Mr Anderton's habit of making public expression of controversial views on moral issues did not endear him to the committee. But elsewhere in the West Midlands, for example, where rarely is a cross word exchanged between Sir Philip Knights, the chief constable, and the councillors, police-community relations are handled differently – an indication of how far representative local government may reflect cultural variation between different parts of the country.

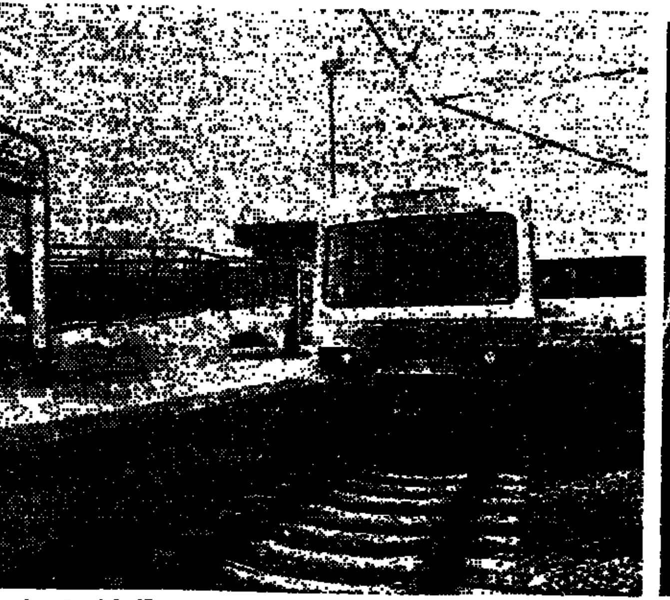
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Transport: Praise from Whitehall

Probably the most potent symbol of the success of the metropolitan countries in coordinating public transport in their areas is visible on entering the old train station in Tynemouth. It is a map. It shows the schoolchild Whitley Bay seven minutes away by metro-rail, the shopper the spending opportunities of Eldon Square only 25 minutes distant, the Tynesider easy access to friends and relatives whether they live in Gateshead or Walker. The Tyne and Wear metro-rail undoubtedly serves to unify the conurbation.

Tyne and Wear's metro-rail, part new construction, part take-over of redundant British Rail track, is famous. It cost more than £100m and has con tributed, since 1975, to a 10 per cent increase in passenger numbers on the county's buses and trains; it would not have been built without a single county-wide public transport authority.

The need for unitary arrangements for transport in the counties is widely agreed. The county passenger transport executives have coordinated services and established a strategic framework of policy, John Welsby, a British Rail director told a recent Association of Metropolitan Authorities Conference his perception is evidently shared within the Department of Transport which insisted on joint boards for transport after abolition.



On land with Tyne and Wear's metro line and right, councillor Gordon Morgan, sings the praises of regional airports

The Government accepts the need for a single authority providing buses and trains from Sheffield to Barnsley, under the Mersey, between Leeds and Bradford, from Birmingham to West Bromwich. There are even, in some Whitehall quarters, words of praise for Merseyside's "looplink" with British Rail, for Greater Manchester's light rail plans. What has exercised the government – what indeed was a factor in the abolition plan itself – is the spending policies of the counties. Here, from the Government's point of view, the dire example is South Yorkshire and the Labour-controlled county council's deliberate decision to run a cheap-fares, intensively-used bus system.

This, in the words of Mrs Lynda Chalker, the junior transport minister, constituted a refusal on the part of the county councils to "face reality": their spending on support for passenger transport was too high; levels of fares subsidy too great; manning levels unacceptable to the Government; whatever local opinion might be expressed.

Under the abolition plans, the Department of Transport will take direct control of fares and service levels in the metropolitan counties since it will have the power to set the passenger boards' budgets. The Tyne and Wear metro will continue, it appears, but the fares will rise and the frequency of service will be decided on the banks of the River Thames.

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Airports fly into profit

Five major regional airports are affected by the fate of the metropolitan counties – Birmingham, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. "The Government," says the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, "just did not seem to be aware of what was happening there." The five airports made an £18 million operating surplus in 1982-83, a testimony (say the county councils) to their effective management.

The West Midlands County Council says that over the five-year period prior to the county's creation, the Birmingham Airport was being run at a £950,000 deficit. Since then its operation has been "remarkably successful" with an increasing range of air transport services for the Midlands and extensive domestic and international scheduled and charter services.

Passenger numbers have increased from 700,000 in 1970 to 1,600,568 in 1982-83. The county council forecasts that by 1990 at least 2,000 new jobs will have been created at the airport and in adjacent hotels. Work has been completed on a new passenger terminal linked by an innovatory transport system – MAGLEV, featuring elevated track vehicles.

Abroad in Metro land

One of the Government's main objections to the metropolitan county councils is that they comprise an "unnecessary tier" of local administration. Ever since that claim was made, it has proved easier for the Greater London Council to argue against it than for the county councils. One reason is that the GLC has more money than any of the metropolitan county councils to spend on publicizing its case.

Another is that the GLC and its predecessor authorities have had a long period of metropolitan government in London. But the most important card held by the GLC is that it administers the capital city. How, it can argue, can you have a capital city with no single authority to represent its interests? It is one thing to argue that Westminster City Council cannot provide an adequate voice for the whole of inner London. It is quite another to suggest that Birmingham City Council cannot adequately represent inner Birmingham.

The metropolitan county councils realized that their defence would have to be more subtle. They believed that they could point to achievements and advantages no less solid than those of the GLC.

Their search for data to support their rejection of the Government's claim that they are unnecessary has taken the metropolitan authorities abroad. Alan Norton, of the Institute of Local Government Studies at the Universtiy of Birmingham was commissioned by the county councils to examine city government in eight democratic countries.

"The turbulent history of recent local government change in England amazes our continental neighbours," Mr Norton wrote." Nowhere else does there appear to be a similar sharp polarization of policies between political parties."

One of the successes he found was Metropolitan Toronto authority whose area stretches for more than 20 miles along the shore of Lake Ontario. Half of the councillors are nominated by the six smaller councils in the area and half are the mayors and senior members of those councils.

The council is therefore elected by a method unknown in Britain. It also has powers that go beyond those of Metropolitan country in England. They include ambulance services, for example.

Mr Norton found evidence that the metropolitan authority in Toronto had acted as a useful point of diffusion between the Government and the local councils. He found local satisfaction with the metropolitan authority's role as strategic planner and provider of an intergrated transport system across the boundaries of the smaller local councils.

Councils in Sweden have the power to raise a local income tax and the small local councils below the county level suppy water and power which in Britain would be provided by Nationalized industries. The work of Stockholm County Coucil has been examined minutely in Sweden and has proved an acceptable agency for transport planning and development control.

Greater Copenhagen Council has a tiny staff to meet some of the needs of a third of the population of Denmark. Its main role has been in land use planning and development control. Barcelona Metropolitan Corporation in Spain is a recent indirectly – elected creation which is responsible for planning.

Mr Norton found that the corporation had fulfilled a role like that which the English metropolitan county concils have set out for themselves. "The strongest impression on the author is of local leaders, responsible to local electorates, struggling with and developing truly local solutions to the metropolitan problem," he wrote.

The councils he studied had wrestled with the difficulty of providing a buffer between the central power in a country and the small local councils, many of which are much smaller than the metroplitan districts in England. In some cases the wrestling was more conspicuous than its result. But some of the countries which have adopted a pattrn of metroplitan administration which is geographically comparable to that of the English counties have no intention of getting rid of it.

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Metropolitan authority	Population	Number of lower-tier councils	Population of largest city
Tyne & Wear	1.4m	5	301,000
Merseyside	1.5m	5	513,000
S Yorkshire	1.3m	4	543,000
W Yorkshire	2.0m	5	724,000
Gtr Manchester	2.5m	10	474,000
W Midlands	2.6m	7	1,030,000
Stockholm county	1.5m	23	746,000
Gtr Copenhagen	1.7m	45	623,000
Metropolitan Barcelona	3.1m	27	1,774,000
Metropolitan Toronto	2.1m	6	630,000

Enterprise boards: socialism with capitalism

Strict money terms only

MARCH 31 1986

Swallowing a century of regional pride Birmingham and the Black Country a fortnight ago joined the Goverament's list of "assisted areas". The West Midlands – where since 1978 some 25,000 jobs in manufacturing have disappeared – will now qualify for development grants. But no-one locally imagines that new Department of Trade and Industry money can of itself turn around the recession-bound regional economy. On the contrary, says Geoff Edge, chairman of the West Midlands County Council's economic development committee. "West Midlanders must do what they can themselves to pull the region out of recession and halt the frightening prospects of further decline."

It is a message which chimes with Birmingham's tradition of self-help and municipal activism. The city council is a keen promoter of the city as the "heart of England" and its development projects include the Birmingham International Exhibition Centre and new hotels and a conference centre in the middle of the city.

The Labour administration of the county council has been active, too, through the medium of the West Midlands Enterprise Board in generating investment in the area. "We have a proud tradition in the Black Country of innovation and resourcefulness and these quantities are needed now more than ever before", says Mr Edge who doubles as chairman of the board.

Trying to fill a financial gap

The enterprise board is itself an innovation. The idea of a municipal enterprise board intervening in the local economy to re-structure private firms was a spin off from the work of Stuart Holland, Robin Young and other academics influenced by Italian models: the national enterprise board set up by the last Labour government had the same roots. It represents a kind of rapprochement between socialism (the local council) and capitalism (the firm needing capital investment): the firm sees its profitability enhanced, the council sees jobs created and–the West Midlands board stipulates this in contracts–minimum health and safety standards enforced and trade unions recognized.

According to Mr Edge "the board is a public sector development capital company which was set up to provide primarily equity, also long term loan finance to West Midlands companies. There are many companies which have survived the recession, but which now need new finance".

Beneficiaries of the board's £6.5 million investment include Armalloy, a steel foundry in the Black Country: Kirby's of Oldbury, the last British-owned manufacturer of cardboard box making equipment: and Welding Robotics of Wolverhampton.

The board's interest does not extend only to the traditional "metal-banging" industries of the West Midlands: It is proud of its £125,000 stake in E. R. Hammersley & Co, a supplier of trendy garb to Saks of Fifth Avenue – and the workforce increased by nearly 100 after the capital injection.

As long ago as 1978 Merseyside County Council, then Conservative controlled, set up MERCEDO, the Merseyside Economic Development Office to provide advice on business development, sites and properties. Later the council spun off a limited company with a £3 million investment fund. It sponsors an agency for promoting the growth of workers' cooperatives and an agency for training both young people and adults in new technology. There is now a veritable alphabet of Merseyside economic initiatives in which the county council has a hand, from the Merseyside Enterprise Forum to the Wavetree Technology Park, a joint venture with Liverpool City Council, the Plessey Company and English Industrial Estates.

The virtue of the metropolitan counties, according to Maisie Eade, chairman of the employment sub-committee of the West Yorkshire County Council is that they combine democratic accountability with the scale necessary to tackle the problems of industrial decline in conurbation Britain.

Mrs Eade says: "West Yorkshire County Council has a programme of building industrial access roads, servicing land for industrial development, training workers for new jobs, making grants to small firm and cooperatives, and providing venture capital.

"All in all the county has created or saved 8,000 jobs in the local economy in close cooperation with local business and commerce. A further 12,000 jobs are in the pipeline."

Yet all county leaders nowadays define their economic role in terms much wider than enterprise boards or development committees. In evidence it gave to the House of Commons' environment committee examining the problems of management or urban renewal, Tyne and Wear County Council defined their task as that of coordinating a myriad of efforts to stimulate jobs and refurbish the housing, roads and other infrastructure of Newcastle, Sunderland and Gateshead.

In its memorandum to MPs, the county said it was the most appropriate body to coordinate the renewal programme: it alone covered the whole conurbation and was well pleased both to assess the competing needs of areas within the conurbation and to operate the necessary countywide services.

Investing in a new kind of job

In testimony in the House of Commons, the leader of Tyne and Wear cited the county's work in packaging the presentation of the North East to Nissan which indeed eventually decided to locate its new motor assembly plant there. Jim Gardner, chief executive of Tyne and Wear, said the degree of cooperation between county and districts was "unique" in the metropolitan areas.

Back in the West Midlands, the county council is at pains to define "economic development" to include much more than investing in firms. Jobs cannot always be provided by traditional capitalistic forms says the council. It emphasizes the role of workers' cooperatives and "community enterprises". To date £363,320 worth of grants have been made to 42 cooperatives, paying for about 200 jobs.

Beyond that, the council says that despite its best efforts, low pay, poverty and unemployment will persist and its job is to assist the poorest, for example by encouraging the fullest possible take up of social security benefits. It has sponsored four local "take-up" campaigns in Birmingham, Chelmsely Wood, Sandwell and Dudley which, it says, have generated more than £3.5 million a year in extra benefit payments. "We include all these in our wide-ranging approach to economic development", says Mr Edge.

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Parks and pleasure: the forgotten factor?

Ministers claim that the metropolitan county councils are not worth keeping because they have far too little to do. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, made the point at the annual meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. "If you look at what these councils actually do – or rather don't do – the exaggerated claims of their defenders just don't stand up.

"The metropolitan councils are not, for example, responsible for education or housing or personal social services," he went on. "Nor are they responsible for health, water, sewerage, street-cleaning or even crematoria."

It was a long list, long enough to include two items which English councils never handle. Water and health are administered by their own special authorities and not by directly-elected councillors. Despite Mr Jenkin's ready dismissal, the metropolitan county councils think they have plenty to do. PA Management Consultants, which undertook one of several surveys for the counties about the effects of abolition, identified 42 functions which are still left to the threatened councils.

They are worried that some of their uncontroversial work will be dissipated if abolition goes ahead because the main aim afterwards will be to prove to ratepayers that savings can be delivered. Council staff who work in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils.

Though the metropolitan county councils cover some of the most densely-populated regions of Britain, they have always shown a strong interest in protecting the countryside. Surprisingly large portions of their areas have not yet been built on.– Half of Greater Manchester and well over a third of Tyne and Wear have not yet been swallowed up by urban development.

Staff in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils

Recreational work in Tyne and Wear has been split, with the district looking after provision in the towns and the county authority taking responsibility for the countryside. It has organized the signposting and mapping of hundreds of miles of public footpaths and cycle routes and has developed more than 1,000 acres of country parks and picnic sites.



The other side of council expenditure: a boating lake in a reclaimed open-cast site of the Rother Valley

One of the hardest rural tasks for the metropolitan county authorities is to make the urban fringe suitable for recreation and to prevent it from becoming an eyesore. That is where people like to dump their old cars and washing machines, ride their motorcycles through the mud and part company with their unwanted dogs.

Like the other metropolitan counties Tyne and Wear has taken a lead in organizing Green Belt status for land of high landscape and recreational value on the urban fringe. Tyne and Wear's council rural management team is financed partly by the Countryside Commission, a quango which safeguards areas of high landscape value against development.

The commission has told the Government that it is worried about the threat from abolition to "the substantial work done by metropolitan county councils and the GLC in providing country parks and their recreational facilities in the countryside." It also fears that abolition will weaken Green Belt protection.

The main aim of the Green Belt is to contain urban sprawls which would otherwise join separate towns into great urban masses and to restrict suburban development in open countryside and unspoiled villages.

But the metropolitan councils do not just restrict development. They stimulate it as well. The Rother Valley country park on the borders of South Yorkshire, between Sheffield and Chesterfield, is one of the most striking examples of a feat of recreational engineering masterminded by a metropolitan county council.

The South Yorkshire authority started to plan the park before opencast mining began in the valley in the late 1970s. The site of more than 700 acres now has a lake, golf course and 150,000 specially planted trees and shrubs.

Most of the £7m cost of the project is being met by South Yorkshire Council with help from Derbyshire County Council and the Countryside Commission. The commission has told the ministers who appoint its members that abolition of the metropolitan county councils would threaten the survival of much of their environmental work.

The commission adds that if abolition goes ahead it should itself be given enough Government cash to make up for the money now being spent by the metropolitan counties in the countryside. West Midlands, for example, has a landscape and reclamation team of 30 which works mainly on reclaiming derelict land. The county, which includes much of the heartland of the 19th century industrial revolution, has plenty of derelict sites, and their number has increased in the recession of recent years.

The Countryside Commission has told ministers that abolition would threaten the survival of much of its environmental work

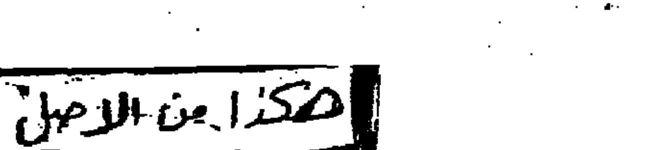
The Government has said that it wants specialist environmental work to be continued after abolition by the smaller councils. But it has also made it clear that one of the areas in which it expects considerable job losses through abolition is in the planning departments of the county councils.

Another non-political activity in which the prospect of abolition alarms specialists is the conservation of historic archives. The act of abolition itself will add considerably to the collections held by the threatened councils. Together they hold literally miles of documents and photographs which the district councils are supposed to organize coherently after abolition.

West Yorkshire is the only metropolitan county with the joint arrangements among districts councils which the Government wants to see throughout the six areas after abolition. West Midlands has no county records office, but they exist in each of the other four metropolitan county councils. Almost half the district councils in those four counties have no archive service.

Archivists have advised the Government to create countywide services after abolition so that the existing facilities can survive intact. But that would entail reinventing a piece of the present county council structure after abolition and would make it harder for the Government to show that the process had produced savings.

HC



هكذا من الأصل

WHITEHALL

IMAGINE THEM TRYING TO CHANGE THE FACE OF THE WEST MIDLANDS.









You can't run the West Midlands from Whitehall.

West Midlands County Council

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BUILDING & ROADS	
1	Wilson (Connolly)	
2	Leech William	
3	Bryant	
4	Higgs & Hill	
5	Attwoods	
6	IDC	
7	Car (J) Doncaster	
8	Brownlee	
9	French Kier	
10	Brickhouse Dudley	
	ELECTRICALS	
11	Atlantic Comp	
12	Eurotherm	
13	BICC	
14	BSR	
15	Electrocomponents	
16	Lec Refrigeration	
17	First Castle Elec	
18	GEC	
19	Grosvenor	
20	Int Signal & Control	
	DRAPERY & STORES	
21	Hepworth (J)	
22	Marks & Spencer	
23	Menzies (John)	
24	Freemans	
25	Harris Queensway	
26	Peters Stores	
27	House of Fraser	
28	Vantona Viyella	
29	MFI	
30	Etam	
	BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
31	Allied Irish	
32	Chart J Rthschld	
33	HK Shanghai	
34	Hambros	
35	Royal Bnk of Scot	
36	Midland	
37	Hill Samuel	
38	Ansbacher (Henry)	
39	Guinness Peat	
40	Stand Chart	
© Times Newspapers Limited	Your Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares firm at close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 21. § Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES
Portfolio
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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for
+32 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BREWERIES

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

BUILDING AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE AND LAND

FOODS

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A–D

E–K

L–R

S–Z

INSURANCE

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

OIL

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Taxation on pensions remains an open issue

The Government has finally reacted to the growing consternation, caused by widespread rumours that the tax treatment of pensions will be altered in the next Budget. Yesterday and by Wednesday *ministers made comments* which are likely to be the last on taxation issues before the chancellor goes into pre-Budget purdah. The Prime Minister was characteristically forthright about mortgage interest relief, as it will not be abolished while she is in the Driving seat, were distinctly apague.

In reply to a parliamentary question yesterday asking him to comment on the rumours that tax concessions on pensions were to be reduced Mr Nigel Lawson said he would not confirm or deny the rumours. On the specific question of taxing lump sums taken on retirement he said: "There is no reason for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours. This government would not propose, and the House would not accept, retrospective legislation of the kind."

What exactly does "retropective" mean in this context? MPs tried to pin the Chancellor down, but he would not have it.

The most likely inference is that all pension contributions made up to the date a tax was imposed would be tax free when finally taken as a lump sum. Contributions made subsequently would be taxable. If this proves a correct guess, the change would take a good 40 years to work fully into the pension system and would bring in minimal revenue in the early years.

Another inference, however, is that any new tax would not be backdated from the time the 1985 Finance Bill was passed to the date it was first announced in the Budget statement. If that is what the Chancellor meant, we are in for a far more sweeping tax change.

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, did not clarify matters when he told a conference of businessmen yesterday: "None of you need rush to retire between now and the Budget."

The Government is certainly not committed to a tax lump sum. Nothing has been said about taxing pension contributions or pension fund investments. The air therefore will remain thick with doubt. The CBI, amongst others, remains "extremely concerned." The National Association of Pension Funds merely welcomes the statement "as far as it goes."

On the subject of mortgage interest relief, the Prime Minister, declared her unequivocal support on Wednesday. She told the National Housebuilders' Council, "you want mortgage interest relief to continue. It will." She did not make clear, however, whether, as many suspect, the rate of relief will be reduced from marginal rates to a flat 30 per cent.

She also said that the Government would vigorously resist any attempt to introuce value added tax on new housing.

Harmony at Lazards; strife at Montagu

Sir John Nott, the defence secretary at the time of the Falklands conflict, is to succeed Mr Ian Fraser as chairman and chief executive of Lazard Brothers when Mr Fraser reaches the bank's retirement age of 62 in August. A number of other important appointments and promotions have been made.

At Samuel Montagu, in very different circumstances, Mr Staffan Gadd is leaving his £139,000 a year chairmanship after a clash of wills, unusual in in the refined environment of merchant banking parlours.

Swedish born Mr Gadd has served four years of a seven-year contract with Montagu: his departure will involve "substantial" compensation.

Midland Bank owners of Montagu with US insurance group, Aetna Life and Carualty, said that because of the rapidly changing nature of domestic and international financial markets it felt that the Montagu's strategic development required integration at policy level so that "Aetna, Midland and Montagu mobilize their combined resources and expertise as effectively as possible". Mr Gadd, who is to be succeeded by Sir Michael Palliser, the former head of the diplomatic service and previously a Montagu non-executive director, believed in a degree of independence which Montagu's shareholders decided was unacceptable.

Mr Gadd's abrupt resignation is a by-product of the major corporate and structural changed that have been occuring in the City over the last two years – changes to which Mr Walter Wriston directs his experienced mind in the last of six articles published in *The Times* on this subject (page 27).

News of Mr Gadd's departure was released by the Midland Bank late on Wednesday night. In it Mr Gadd said: "In *view of the differences over development* policy I think it better to resign in an amicable way and pursue other interests."

His departure should quell persistent suggestions that Midland is about to sell its interest in Montagu.

Mr Fraser would not admit it, but he must have been quietly smiling to himself about the Montagu blood letting as he contemplated the deliberately restrained attitude Lazard has taken to events now changing the face of the City. He may have been thinking of brokers W Greenwell, which is being bought by Montagu when he asked: "Why splash out £50 million of goodwill on a stockbroker or jobber? £50 million spent on goodwill is £50 million off your capital base and £50 million less available for banking?" Incidentally, Greenwell's senior partner, Mr Gordon Pepper, is joining the Montagu board as part of the shake-up.

"With all these conflicts of interest building up", Mr Fraser, who will be retiring to his farm in Somerset to rear sheep, said, "I think the whole system is heading for the most gastly problems." Sir John Nott, who while at S G Warburg in the early 1960s was responsible for inventing the Muicipal yearling bond, believes there are rich rewards to be had by adopting the "niche approach" to change.

Among yesterday's new appointments at Lazard's was Mr Gilbert Scharf, aged 36, a US citizen and for many years a managing director of Morgan Stanley. He will be responsible for developing the kind of capital markets activities which have made Lazard Freres in New York into one of the most highly profitable investment banking operation in the United States.

Mr Scharf is a long-standing associate of Mr Mezza-Cappa, the partner of Lazard Freres in New York who has developed specialized block trading in debt and equities into a minor art form. Mr Scharf hopes to repeat his success, in Britain. His will be a quite different market making business from that other merchant banks are attempting to set up. And Sir John hopes, much more profitable.

Mr David Verey, is to become, at the age of 34, deputy chief executive and managing director of the merchant bank. Mr Verner Wylie, Mr Tom Manners and Mr Peter Grant become deputy chairmen, and Mr Marcus Agius aged 38, will be a managing director.

Hambro Life suspends shares after mystery bid approach

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Mark Weinberg's life assurance group Hambro Life halted dealings in its shares yesterday later confirming it had received a bid approach.

After the suspension there was immediate speculation that Charterhouse J. Rothschild, the investment management and banking group, had sold its 24.9 per cent shareholding to a potential bidder.

There had been heavy turnover in the shares before they were halted at 495p, up 25p on the day, valuing the group at £580 million. The shares have come up from 357p this year.

Mr Weinberg said: "We have received an approach for our shares. It is a serious approach and because the share price started moving we decided to call a halt to dealings". He declined to comment on whether the would-be bidder was a British or American group. "At this stage I cannot comment further. There should be a further statement from us by Monday at the latest".




Mark Weinberg (left) and Jacob Rothschild: cooperation in certain areas

BAT Industries was being strongly tipped as a likely bidder. It already owns the Eagle Star insurance business, which it bought for more than £900 million. A spokesman said: "We don't comment on market rumours".

The Charterhouse stake had been thought to be up for sale since the two groups failed to agree on a £1,000 million merger in the summer. Charterhouse bought the block of 30 million shares from Hambros, the merchant bank which had been steadily reducing its holding in the insurance gruop, for 410p a share. If it has struck a deal, it stands to make a considerable profit on its investment.

Other potential suitors being linked with Hambro Life include the American banking group Citicorp, and Security Pacific.

Mr Jacob Rothschild, head of CJR, had hoped to create with Mr Weinberg's expertise in life assurance a formidable financial services operation and acquired his shareholding as a keystone of the deal.

But while their discussions went on there were widespread rumblings that all was not well and the market began to adopt a jaundiced view of the financial merits of the marriage.

In the end the groups agreed that a "financial merger would be likely to be valued at less than the sum of its two parts" – and Rothschild was left with its stake in exchange for vague mutterings about cooperation in certain areas.

End curbs on textile imports, says study

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Britain would benefit from ending import restrictions on textiles and clothing, according to a report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Professor Aubrey Silberston, of Imperial College, was asked to study the effect on Britain of export and import restrictions in textiles and clothing, in preparation for an international review of the third Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which expires in 1986.

Professor Silberston concludes that Britain would gain free trade liberalization and that job losses in the textile and clothing industry would be more than offset by employment gains elsewhere in the economy. Aided by economic simulations by Cambridge Econometrics, he finds that:

● The system of import quotas adds about 10 per cent to the prices of imported textiles and clothing and 5 per cent to the domestic prices of such goods:

● Between 10,000 and 50,000 jobs in the textile and clothing industry would be lost if the import restrictions were to be wound down:

● About 150,000 more jobs are likely to be lost in these two industries in Britain by the early 1990s, because of the need to achieve rapid increases in productivity in order to compete with suppliers who do have access to Britain:

● The cost to the British consumer of import restrictions amounted to more than £10,000 per job saved in 1982 prices. This was more than the value-added per employee in these industries and nearly twice as much as their average earnings in 1982.

The gains from liberalization would be thinly spread across the economy, while the costs would be concentrated in certain regions. However, Professor Silbertson, said: "it would be dangerous to be swayed unduly by this consideration, since it leads in the direction of regidity and progressive wekening."

Leading article, page 13

MPs reject further aid for BNOC

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Losses on oil trading by the Government's British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) will be debated by Parliament next Tuesday. A recommendation will be put to the House that no further aid should be given unless the Government admit's that BNOC is beng used deliberately to support the world oil price.

The Parliamentary Energy Selected Committee has approved the additional £45 million that BNOC is now being given by the Government to cover losses on North Sea oil trading.

However, the committee said yesterday: "What the committee believes quite acceptable would be for any further supplementary estimate to be presented in the New Year to cover further losses by BNOC unless the Government is prepared expressly to annonce that is its policy to use BNOC's agreements to support the price of oil.

"The committee, the House and the country will not want to see good money following what may turn out to have been bad."

The committee says that after its investigation into the role of BNOC and its need for £45 million of Government finance to cover losses it believes that the Government does not have a policy for North Sea prices and should take responsibility

BNOC argued before the committee that the rules under which it operated gave it little room for manoeuvre. The corporation lost money because it was committed to buy in oil on contract at a price lower than it could sell it for on the open market after its long-term purchasers ended their contracts.

The committee adds: "In principle, the committee believes that giving the trading arm of Government a separate name and corporate identity need not necessarily be wrong, but it considers that government denials that it has tried to exercise any influence in establishing North Sea oil prices are at best unhelpful and at worst misleading."

The Government's role in North Sea oil pricing will be defended in the Commons next Tuesday by the Energy Minister Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith on the eve of a fullscale ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec)

Output falls in factories after gains

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Manufacturing output fell by 0.7 per cent in October – against the trend of recent months. However, increased North Sea oil production, together with a small rise in coal output, resulted in a 0.8 per cent increase in overall industrial production.

Despite the October fall, manufacturing output in the latest three months was 1.3 per cent up on the previous period. The chemicals industry, which is benefiting from sterling is weakness against the dollar, raised its output by 5 per cent over the lastest three months, electrical and instrument engineering, including computers, was up 3 per cent, and motor vehicles and parts' output was up 4 per cent.

October's fall in manufacturing output is partly explained by an upward revision of the figures for earlier months.

The Department of Trade and Industry's latest investment intentions survey shows that manufacturing industry plans to increase investment by 7 per cent in 1985, compared with 1984, followed by a slowdown in 1986.

Pound falls to $1.19

Sterling dropped 95 points to $1 1900 yesterday, as the dollar was boosted by a 1 8 per cent jump in US retail sales last month, and the oil market remained weak.

The dollar was generally strong, gaining nearly two pfennigs against the Deutschemark to DM3 1047. The dollar index rose 0.3 to 143.1, while the sterling index fell 0.2 to 74.3.

Sterling also lost 80 points to DM3 6935 against the Deutschemark, and nearly three centimes to Fr11.3225 against the French franc.

AE recovers

AE, the motor components group, made a sharp recovery in its pretax profits from £400,000 to £17.3 million for the year to the end of September. A final dividend of 2.5p is recommended, boosting the total for the year from 1.4p to 4.25p.

Smith record

Smith Brothers yesterday produced record first-half earnings, up 123 per cent to £1.78 million, despite losses from the international dealing side. The second half has started well and international trading is improving **Tempus, page 25**

Unigate ahead

Unigate, the diary and meat products group, has increased pretax for the six months to September 30 to £25.9 million, up from £23.6 million. Turnover increased from £855.5 million to £937.1 million; The interim dividend is lifted to 3p, against 2.75p last time.

Tempus, page 25

Team work

Mr David Evans, chairman of the Brengreen cleaning group, in which Mr Michael Ashcroft's conglomerate Hawley Group has acquired a 14.9 per cent stake, said that if Hawley made a full bid, "At the right price Evans and Ashcroft would make a formidable team in the cleaning business." In the stock market yesterday Brengreen shares rose a further 2½p to 59p.

Dividend up

RHP, the bearing manufacturer, is to pay a final dividend of 1.75p (0.75p) for the year to September 28, after improvement in profits from £660,000 to £6.2 million. At the earnings level, RHP has swung from losses of £1.3 million to profits of £5.1 million. Sales improved from £102 million to £106 million. **Tempus, page 25**

Greycoat in £66m takeover

By Judith Huntley
Commmercial Property Correspondent

Greycoat City Offices has made a £66 million agreed bid for Churchbury Estates and the minority interests of Law Land in a cash and shares offer.

The directors of Greycoat, Churchbury and the minority shareholders in Law Land have agreed terms to acquire all the ordinary shares in Churchbury and Law Land.

Sir Henry Warner, the former chairman of Law Land, has agreed to accept the offer for the 10.7 per cent of the Law Land shares not held by Chruchbury therefore obtaining better terms for minority shareholders.

The takeover means that Mr Oliver Marriott, Churchbury Estates' chairman, will cease to have any connection with the merged company.

As recompense the *four* executive directors will receive a total of £291,000, with Mr Marriott receiving £97,000. Mr Marriott said that he had enough confidence in the Greycoat board whose chairman is Lord Chelmer, not to want representation in the *merged company.*

Churchbury shareholders will be offered 12 Greycoat ordinary shares and unsecured loan stock for every four shares with three Law Land shares being exchanged for either two Greycoat ordinary shares and/or cash or loan stock.

The new Greycoat ordinary shares will rank at the same rate as existing shares.

Waddington bid lapses

Mr Robert Maxwell's £44 million takeover bid for John Waddington was formally defeated last night. By the close, Mr Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation had gained acceptance of only 7.06 per cent of the shares for his 500p a share cash offer.

Waddington shares dropped 37p to 465p as the bid lapsed yesterday afternoon. Mr Maxwell had conceded defeat 24 hours earlier, although he thought that a subsequent drop in the Waddington share price might cause some institutional holders which had supported the board to change sides.

Record sales in US shops

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US retails sales increased strongly last month, rising 1.8 per cent to a record $110.3 billion (£92.7 billion).

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the November gain was a healthy and welcome sign of continued growth in the midst of a downturn which has adversely affected almost every sector of the US economy.

Commerce department officials said that the figures reflected an early burst of Christmas shopping resulting in the strongest monthly gain since April. Economists blame a sudden drop in consumer demand during the summer for the dramatic slowdown in US growth.

But both administration officials and private economists warned *against reading* too much into the November figure. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury secretary, said that he feared the Christmas selling season will be less buoyant than expected because of continuing high interest rates.

As concern over the slowdown has increased, pressure has grown on the US Federal Reserve Board, which acts as a central bank, to ease credit control. Mr Regan has criticized the board's monetary policies as "penurious".

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	927 6 (+5.3)
FT-A All Share	574 18 (+1.59)
FT Govt Securities	82.58 (−0.33)
FT-SE 100	1198.7 (+6.0)
Bargains	29,435
Datastream USM	105 78 (−0.64)
New York	
Dow Jones	1173.91 (−1.21)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,340.05 (−42.29)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1126.49 (+9.26)
Amsterdam:	178.5 (+0 1)
Sidney: AO	716.4 (−4.9)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1084.5 (−2.6)
Brussels:	
General	158.22 (−0.09)
Paris: CAC	180.9 (unchanged)
Zurich:	
SKA General	318.80 (−0.5)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $326.40pm-$324.25
close $325.00-$325.50 (£272.50-273)
New York: $324.80
Comex (latest)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Peak Hldgs	23 +3
High-Point	265 +30
S.Simpson	260 +25
Inter-City Inv	32 +3
Ass Brit Eng	11½ +1
Harold Ingram	125 +10
Equity Law	265 +19
Rockware	28 +2
McCarthys	230 +16½
Westpool Inv Tr	72 +5
Energy Fin	32 +2
VW Thermax	18 +8
Botswana	15 +1
FALLS:	
CPU Computers	67 −21
Camwermoor	11 −75
Penkalen	700 −100
Acorn Computers	67 −8
OK Bazaars	625 −80
Zygal	45 −5
Castle(GB)	50 −5
Fobel Int	32 −3
Jas Ferguson	10 −1
Dwek Grp	20 −2
Greycoat	192−16
Metal Sciences	12-1

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1 1900 (−0.0095)
£: DM 3.6935 (−0 0080)
£: SwFr 3.0455 (−0.0175)
£: FFr 11 3225 (−0.0280)
£: Yen 294.50 (−1.0)
£ Index: 74.3 (−0.2

New York:
£: $1 1900
$: DM 3 1047
$ Index. 143.1 (+0.3)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base 9¾ - 9½
3-month Interbank 9 15/16 - 9¾
3-month elgible bills 9 5/32 - 9⅛
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 11 25 - 11.50
Federal Funds 8⅞
3-month Treasury Bills 8 29 - 8 25
Long bond 101 7/16 - 101¼

WALL STREET

	Dec 12	Dec 11		Dec 12	Dec 11		Dec 12	Dec 11
Detroit Edison	15¼	15	NW Bancorp	22¾	22¾	Hawker/Sid Can	17⅞	17¾
Digital Equip	103¼	103¾	Occidental Pet	28½	28⅞	Hudson Bay Mm	6⅝	6¾
Disney	57½	57⅝	Ogden	27	27	Imasco	47¾	47¾
Dow Chemical	27⅝	27½	Olin Corp	31	30¾	Imperial Oil	42⅞	43½
Dresser Ind	19¼	19⅜	Owens-Illinois	38⅞	38⅞	Int Pipe	33¾	33⅝
Duke Power	28⅛	28⅞	Pacific Gas Elec	15⅞	16	Mass.-Fergsn	3.65	3.65
Du Pont	46⅝	46¼	Pan Am	4⅛	4⅛	Royal Trustco	17⅝	17⅝
Eastern Air	4	4	Penney J. C.	48⅞	48¾	Seagram	48⅝	49¼
Eastman Kodak	70⅛	70⅛	Pennzoil	48⅝	43⅝	Steel Co	20⅝	20¾
Eaton Corp	50	50	Pepsico	40¾	41¼	Thomson N 'A'	48	47¾
Emerson Elect	66⅝	66⅛	Pfizer	39½	39¾	Walker Hiram	23⅝	23½
Evans Prod	3⅛	3⅛	Phelps Dodge	13¼	13½	WCT	14⅞	14¾

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Trading only moderate

New York (Reuter) – The market headed lower in moderate trading early yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, fell 0.99 to 1,174.14.

NYSE index was down 0.08 to 93.71 and the price of an average share was down 3 cents.

Declines led advances 593-526 among the 1,679 issues crossing the tape.

Analysts pointed out there was a lack of selling pressure in the stock market's modest decline on Wednesday. Some think a year-end rally is still possible.

IBM was the most active NYSE-listed issue, up ¼ to 119.

San Diego Gas and Electric was second, unchanged at 22⅞.

Phillips Petroleum was third, up 1 to 53. Phillips the Company is fighting a takeover move by Mesa partners. Mesa Petroleum was unchanged at 20½.

Digital equipment was down ¼ at 103, Texas Instruments down 1½ at 112¼ and Motorola down ¾ at 32.

The 1.8 per cent increase in retail sales in November was the strongest since April and was considered an encouraging sign that the economy can grow at a faster pace.

Analysts were watching Detroit for a report on early-December car sales.

When the stock market closed, the Federal reserve was due to report on the money supply. Recent increases suggested that the Fed may not be taking any more steps to ease credit, say analysts.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Three Month Sterling					
Mar 85	90.28	90.30	90.22	90.22	220
Jun 85	0 11	90.11	90.02	90.04	30
Sep 85	89 85	89.85	89.90	89.90	23
Dec 85	89 75	89.75	89.70	89.70	23
Mar 86	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	5
Previous day's total open interest 4,737					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Mar 85	98.25	98.29	90.10	90.13	2,894
Jun 85	89.78	89.80	89.61	89.63	299
Sep 85	89.36	89.36	89.15	89.16	58
Dec 85	88.98	88.98	88.74	89.76	25
Mar 85	Nt	-	-	88.40	-
Previous day's total open interest 8,358					
US Treasury Bond					
Dec 84	72-08	72-08	71-20	71-20	340
Mar 85	71-17	71-20	70-25	70-26	2,592
Jun 85	Nt	-	-	70-05	-
Dec 85	Nt	-	-	-	-
Previous day's total open interest 2,086					
Long Gilt					
Dec 84	108-30	109-90	108-12	108-12	207
Mar 85	108-08	108-11	107-18	107-20	2,024
Jun 85	107-26	107-26	107-26	107-07	4
Sep 85	110-30	110-30	110-30	110-11	4
Dec 85	110-23	110-23	110-23	110-04	4
Previous day's total open interest 3,301					
FT-SE 100					
Dec 84	118 90	119.70	118.90	119.40	174
Mar 85	119 95	119.95	119.50	119.65	44
Jun 85	Nt	-	-	119.80	0
Previous day's total open interest 1,113					

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £'s per tonne
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton;
Gas-oil in US $ per metric tonne.
G W Joynson and Co report

COCOA	
Dec	1884-61
Mar	1842-41
May	1846-45
Jul	1851-50
Sep	1854-50
Dec	1806-01
Mar	1815-96
Vol	137/3032
COFFEE	
Jan	2237-35
Mar	2238-37

TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9870-9875
Three months	9338-9839
T/O	605
Tone	Steadier
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	9912-9917
Three months	9882-9885
T/O	125

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 13:

GB: Cattle, 104.10p per kg lw (+6.21).
GB: Sheep, 186.65p per kg est d c w (-0.31).
GB: Pigs, 91.39p per kg lw (-0.55).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 4.1 per cent, ave. price, 104.84p (+6.95).
Sheep nos. up 22.4 per cent, ave. price, 189.29p (+0.14).
Pig nos. up 15.7 per cent, ave. price, 91.39p (-0.77).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 21.1 per cent, ave. price, 101.61p (+3.07).
Sheep nos. up 22.5 per cent, ave. price, 186.53p (-1.78).
Pig nos. down 2.8 per cent, ave. price, 91.44p (+5.68).

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET

Month	Wheat Close	Barley Close
Jan	£109.65	£109.95
Mar	£113.25	£112.95
May	£116.70	£115.75
Jul	£118.90	-
Sep	£98.15	£97.85
Nov	£101.60	£101.05

Total lots traded
Wheat 328
Barley 350

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.

Feb	328.00-328.50
Vol	247
Tone	Quiet

APPOINTMENTS

Brewers' Society: Mr Ewart Boddington, executive chairman of Manchester-based Boddingtons Breweries, is the new chairman.

He takes over from Mr Charles Tidbury of Whitbread. Mr Edward Guinness, vice-chairman of Arthur Guinness and Son (Great Britain), is the society's new vice-chairman.

Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation: Mr E. Bruce Heyland, president of Hammerson Canda Inc., is to join the executive board from January 1.

North West Gas: Mr Howard Greenfield, chairman of North Eastern Gas, is to become chairman of North West Gas from January 14. He succeeds Mr George B. Scott who is retiring due to ill-health.

Furness Withy Group: Mr D. J. Montier is to become an executive director. Mr T. R. Pulley, finance director is to retire but remain on the board in a non-executive capacity.

Arbuthnot Latham Bank: Mr Eric Carter, formerly the deputy group chief executive (international business) of National Westminster Bank, is to join the boards of Arbuthnot Latham Bank and Dow Scandia Holdings.

After the retirement of Sir John Prideaux, Mr Eric Carter will become chairman of Arbuthnot Latham Bank on January 1 and he has resigned from the board of Gota (UK). Mr R Erith, senior partner of E B Savory Milln & Co., Mr C J Bouveng of Sundsvallsbanken, Mrs L Hwang, Mr P Ashley Miller and Mr I Dinwiddie have been appointed directors.

Midland Bank: Mr T E H Crawford is to become head of group corporate services.

Tunstall Telecom: Mr A J Stradling has been made managing director and will join the board of Tunstall Telecom Group.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
160	119	Aberdeen	158	● ..	7.5	4.7	..
86	66	Alisa	86	..	1.9	2.2	..
575	438	Alliance	575	+2	20.7	3.6	..
116	88½	Amer	111	..	3.8	3.3	..
268	218	Ang Amer Sec	264	-2	7.6	2.9	..
235	184	General Cons	230	..	12.0	5.2	..
104	77	Glasgow Stock	103	..	2.6	2.6	..
250	187	Globe	250	..	12.9	5.1	..
215	176	Greenfriar	203	..	1.9	1.0	..
250	187½	Gresham House	235	● ..	5.7	2.4	..
141	114	Hambros	137	● ..	5.4	4.0	..
228	187	Hill (P)	223	● ..	13.2	5.9	..
488	390	Invest-in Success	488	..	7.8	1.6	..
212	162	Inv Cap	212	..	5.1	2.4	..
111	75	Tr Australia	91	● ..	2.8	3.1	..
76	59	Tr City Of Lon Dfd	76	..	4.4b	5.8	..
143	121	Tr Ind & Gen	141	..	4.8b	3.4	..
260	201	Tr Natural Res	237	● +1	10.7	4.6	..
176	130	Tr North America	161	● +2	4.9b	3.0	..
274	192	Tr Pacific Basin	266	-1	2.9b	1.1	..
137	107	Tr Property	137	● ..	4.7	3.4	..
87	69	Tr Tech	87	● ..	2.4	2.7	..
123	98	Tr Trustees	122	..	4.9	4.0	..

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
345		Akroyd & Smithers	365	●	23.6	6.5	19.0
19⅝		American Express	22⅞	-⅛	..	..	..
16		Argyle	22	-1	8.7	3.2	27.2
67		Boustead	73	-2	..	..	..
63		Britannia Arrow	74	+1	3.3	4.4	16.2
77		CJR Pacific	100		..	..	..
635		Daily Mail	810	+15	49.3	6.1	11.6
638		Do 'A'	810	+15	49.3	6.1	11.6
83		Electra	110	● ..	5.1	4.6	29.3
98		Eng Assoc	85	-1	4.8	4.5	13.5
363		Exco	528	..	11.5	2.2	20.0
58		Exploration	63	..	4.5	7.1	10.3
9		First Charlotte	10½	..	0.1	0.7	95.5
76		Frost (JJ & D)	80	..	4.0	5.0	11.8
42		Goode (D & M)	44	..	1.8	4.1	7.3
357		Henderson Admin	505	● ..	15.7	3.1	10.7
590		M & G	683	..	31.4	4.6	16.6
215		Martin (RP)	380	..	17.9	4.6	8.8
247		Mercantile House	272	-2	17.1	6.3	6.9
255		Mills & Allen	335	+5	28.0	8.0	10.3
70		Smith Brothers	102	-2	7.1	7.0	4.4
175		Yule Catto	280	..	7.9	3.9	9.1

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Period rates again showed very little change for much of a quiet session.

However, the longer end began to look firmer late in the day as US retail sales for November lifted the dollar and increased the pressure on sterling. Ten and 11-month CDS were offered at 9⅞ per cent after the news, but there was no business in the other periods.

Overnight money hovered in the region of 9¼ per cent during the morning, but eased gradually and finished trading at about 7 per cent.

Local authorities showed no interest.

Dollar rates also traded quietly, although rates firmed late on the sharper-than-expected 1.8 per cent rise in US retail sales last month.

The market's willingness to part with bills made for fairly comfortable day-to-day credit conditions.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9½-9½
Finance House 10½

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight: High 9¼ Low 5
Week fixed: 9⅝-9¼

Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 months 9⅝; 3 months 9⅝
Selling: 2 months 9⅛; 3 months 9⅛

Local Authority Deposits (%)
1 month 9⅞; 6 months 9⅞; 3 months 9⅝; 12 months 9⅞

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 10⅛-9⅞; 2 months 10⅛-9¾
3 months 10⅛-9¾; 6 months 10-9⅞
9 months 10¼-10; 12 months 10¼-10

Sterling CDs (%)
1 month 9⅞-9⅞; 3 months 9⅞-9⅝
6 months 9⅞-9⅞; 12 months 9⅞-9⅞

Dollar CDs (%)
1 month 8.85-8.75; 3 months 9.00-8.90
6 months 9.35-9.25; 12 months 10.20-10.00

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Dollar: call 9-8; 7 days 8⅞-8⅞; 1 month 8⅞-8⅞; 3 months 9⅞-9⅞; 6 months 9⅞-9⅞
Deutschmark: call 5⅞-4⅞; 7 days 5⅞-5½; 1 month 5⅞-5⅞

GOLD

Sovereigns* (new): $76.50-77.50 (£64-65)
*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive: 9.904 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar firmed in late trading on foreign exchanges after the release of the American retail sales figures, which showed a higher than expected rise. and

The dollar ended the day at 3.1045 against the mark, more than 1.5 pfennig up on the overnight level. It had traded within a range of 3.0850 to 3.1060.

Sterling, which had spent the morning about 25 points below the previous close of 1.1995, began to fall as the dollar improved.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 13	Market rates close December 13	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1890-1.1980	$1.1890-1.1905	0.08-0.05c prem	0.18-0.13c prem
Montreal	$1.5705-1.5775	$1.5705-1.5735	0.11-0.16c disc	0.27-0.34c disc
Amsterdam	4.1630-4.1765fl	4.1645-4.1725fl	1⅛-1⅛c prem	4-3⅞c prem
Brussels	74.15-74.44f	74.25-74.35f	3-8c disc	10-19c disc
Copenhagen	13.1800-13.2343k	13.1800-13.2000k	2⅛-3⅛ore disc	6⅛-7⅛ore disc
Dublin	1.1841-1.1890p	1.1848-1.1858p	45-61p disc	130-15p disc
Frankfurt	3.6895-3.6965m	3.6895-3.6965m	1⅝-1⅛pf prem	3⅞-3⅝pf prem

[illegible]

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down 0.2 at 74.3 (day's range 74.4-74.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	187.45-187.75
Australia dollar	1.4110-1.4139
Bahrain dinar	0.4495-0.4535
Brazil cruzeiro*	3514.92-3535.77
Cyprus pound	0.7450-0.7550
Finland marka	7.6740-7.7140
Greece drachma	150.75-152.75
Hong Kong dollar	9.3143-9.3240
India rupee	14.55-14.75
Iraq dinar	n.a.
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3615-0.3655
Malaysia dollar	2.8708-2.8757
Mexico peso	230-255
New Zealand dollar	2.45-2.48
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.2460-4.2850
Singapore dollar	2.5824-2.5870
South Africa rand	2.2089-2.2149
United Arab Emirates dirham	4.38-4.42

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.0050-1.0070
Singapore	2.1710-2.1730
Malaysia	2.4135-2.4155
Australia	0.8420-0.8430
Canada	1.3214-1.3219
Sweden	8.8375-8.8525
Norway	8.9440-8.9590
Denmark	11.1000-11.1025
West Germany	3.1040-3.1070
Switzerland	2.5590-2.5620
Netherlands	3.4930-3.4950
France	9.51-9.52
Japan	247.35-247.50
Italy	1911-1974
Belgium(Comm)	62.38-62.47
Hong Kong	7.8305-7.8320
Portugal	164.60-166.00
Spain	171.55-171.70
Austria	21.74-21.76

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

COMPANY NEWS

● BR. BUILDING AND ENG. APPLIANCES: Half-year to Sept 30. Intm. div. 1.35p (1.25p). Figs in £000. T/over 1,762 (2,021). Pft. before tax 144 (164). Pft. after tax 79 (89). Earnings per share, 6.5p (7.4p). The uncertainty in the industry has continued. Trading has not been as buoyant as anticipated and this is reflected in the results for the half year.

● UNITED SCIENTIFIC HLDGS: Year to Sept 30. Final div. 3.5p (3p), mkg. 5.5p (5p). Figs in £000. T/over 120.005 (131,792). Pretax prt 12,072 (15,220). Tax 4,105 (5,978). The board reports that the order book now stands at a record level, in excess of £160m, and it expects that the current yrs profitability will show an improvement over the year just ended. Included in new orders is a big contract to supply more than 120,000 rife telescopes for the new British Army rifle.

Fuller, Smith and Turner, the brewery, is lifting its interim payment for the half-year to Sept. 28 from 2 to 2.4 per cent. Figs. in £000. T over 17,460 (15,374). Operating costs 15,735 (13,897). Operating profit 1,725 (1,477). Financial income less charges 60 (40). Pft: Before tax 1,785 (1,517). The second half has begun well, so the board looks forward to reporting improved results for the full year.

● *TRAFALGAR HOUSE:* In the annual report of Trafalgar House, the property, construction, shipping and energy group, Sir Nigel Broackes, chairman, says there are no present signs that the relative depression of the past four to five years is to be followed by any kind of boom.

The construction market in Britain is arduous and shows "no sign of improving in the forseeable future" and there is no current prospect of ordering additional new cargo tonnage in a market that remains gloomy. A decision to start a detailed evaluation of the re-engining of the QE2 may be made soon. The QE2 is now 15 years old and new propulsion plant would halve fuel costs and extend the ship's lifespan by another 20 years. Mr Eric Parker, who bacame group chief executive in November, 1983, had a near-29 per cent salary rise to £135,000 last year.

● F. & C. EUROTRUST is to raise about £4.85 million, after expenses, by way of a rights issue of 5¾ per cent, convertible unsecured loan stock 1996 at par on the basis of £2 nominal for every three ordinary shares of 25p each held. A total of £100 of stock will be convertible into 80 ordinary shares which is equivalent to a conversion rate of 125p per ordinary share. The issue has been underwritten by Cazenove & Co.

● THORPAC GROUP: Half-year to Sept 30. Int. 1.0p (same). Figs in £000. T/over 1,788 (1,258). Pretax pft. 34 (33). Tax 10 (nil). EPS 1.0p (1.4p). The increase in sales has largely been seen in the growth of the microwave cookware and accessories business, although there has been a satisfactory increase in the sales of freezer packaging and accessories. Since September 30, sales have continued to be buoyant and the directors are optimistic about the outlook for the second half.

● HASLEMERE ESTATES: Half-year to Sept 30. Int. 2.3p (2.09p). Figs. in £000. T/over 12,558 (13,742). Net rental inc. from investment props. 7,781 (7,098). Net rental income from trading profits 676 (528). Trading profit 222 (446). Pretax pft. 2,604 (2,706). Tax 911 (1,082). EPS 5.74p (5.55p).

● STODDARD (HDGS): No int. (nil) for half-year to Sept 30. Figs. in £000. T/over 15,141 (15,847). Tdg. pft. 26 (loss 164). Finance charges 323 (233). Pretax loss 297 (loss 397). Tax 84 (84).

● ARLINGTON MOTOR HLDGS: Half-year to Sept 26. Int. 2.5p (same). Figs. in £000. T/over 38,517 (34,832). Pretax pft. 1,066 (1,030), after interest payable 432 (369). Tax 81 (48).

● HAROLD INGRAM: Half-year to Oct 31, Int. 1p (nil). Figs. in £000. Sales (incl. inter-co.) 2,961 (1,670). Exports 110 (144) pretax pft. 137 (33 loss). EPS 2.32p (-). Although at this stage, the div. and profits are small, the board says the positive turnaround demonstrates a marked improvement in Ingram's fortunes. Pfts. would have been higher but for the substantial cost of refurbishing the new factory in Leicestershire and the upheavals in production schedules. The Businesss is in sounder shape than it has been for some years. The board expects profits in the second half to show an improvement on the first.

● BRIT. STEAM SPECIALITIES: Half-year to Sept 30. Int. 2.25p on increased cap. (2p). Figs. in £000. T/over 31,685 (27,953). Tdg. pft. 2,004 (1,306). Pretax pft. 1,606 (970), after finance charges 398 (336). Tax 768 (338). EPS 6p on increased cap. (4.6p, adj). The board says conditions for the distribution activities were much better than in the past few years and BSS was able to take advantage of the extended countrywide coverage. The results for the year are expected to continue to reflect the improved performance by the group.

Heywood Williams has entered into a traditional agreement with the shareholders of City Glass Works (Liverpool) for the purchase of City Glass. The consideration is to be satisfied by the issue of 2 million ord shares in Heywood, £2.47 *million in cash and £2.4 million* in unsec. loan notes. Taking the Heywood share price at 122p, the total value of the consideration is £7.315 million. The vendors of City Glass have undertaken not to sell any of the new Heywood shares before Dec 31, 1985.

● SIDLAW GROUP: Final 14p, mkg. 20p (16p) for year to Sept 28. A share split from 50p to 25p and a 1-for-5 scrip are proposed. Figs. in £000. T/over 48,800 (43,068). Pretax pft. 6,375 (6,029).

● VAUX BREWERIES: Final 6.655p, mkg. 10.055p (9.075p) for year to Sept. 29. *Figs in £000.* T over 126,800 (108,800). Tdg. pft. 13,182 (12,154). Pretax pft. 13,029 (12,072), after finance charges 2,214 (1,677). The chairman Mr Paul Nicholson says that, overall, he is optimistic about the prospects for the current year. Despite the miners' strike, beer volumes are ahead of last year while Swallow hotels have made a good start. The expanded chain of Blayneys off-licences is also well placed to serve the growing take-home market.

● LONDON MERCHANT SECURITIES: Intm. 0.7p (0.6p). figs in £000. Net rental income 5,675 (5,245) for half-year to Sept 30. Pretax pft. 7,523 (3,551) – consisting of oil and gas 3,752 (loss 475), leisure 34 (loss 185), prop. tdg. 88 (122), Carlton Inds. nil (1,079), other, 12 (1,380), Invst. income 2,741 (1,380), Admin. expenses 1,496 (1,103) and interest payable, 3,283 (2,667). The board reports that the ongoing investment in property and energy development may be relied upon to maintain strong profit growth in future years, although no significant further increase is expected in the second half of the current period.

● R F D GROUP: Intm. div 1.015p (0.924p) for half-year to Sept 30. Figs. in £000. T/over 20,539 (17,525). Tdg. pft. 709 (642). Pretax pft. 512 (568). The board still expects some improvement in the pfts. for the full year.

● RICHARDS: Final 0.95p, mkg. 1.45p (0.75p) for year to Sept 30. Figs. in £000. T/over 121,601 (9,635). Pretax pft. 507 (36). Two big factors behind the recovery were the improved marketing of all Richards' products and the significant profit contribution from the knitwear yarn dvsn. In line with the general slow-down of the economy, trading was not buoyant at the start of the current yr. However, the company expects to benefit from the considerable market and product dev. work undertaken during the year.

RECENT ISSUES

RECENT ISSUES	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	102-2
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	193
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	165
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	90
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	118-3
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	140
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	208-15
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	161
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	93
Hewtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	250
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	200
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	115-3
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	179
Oldacre Hldgs 20p Ord	103
PSM Int 25p (140)	160+2
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	75+1
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	193+1
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	140
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119+1
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	124
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	167-1
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	116-2
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (20a)	22-½

Issue price in parentheses. a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	10¾%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6½%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%; £50,000 and over, 8%.



TEMPUS

Unigate figures lack lustre

Unigate's profit and loss account which glittered so brightly when full year figures were announced in July is looking in need of a little polish. Yesterday's interim pretax profits of £25.9 million were up by 10 per cent but still gave the appearance of being dull.

To be fair to the company's management, which has made great efforts to smarten Unigate's appearance and performance, the problems were not of its own making. As with Northern Foods, which reported the day before, the main difficulties came from pigs and milk.

High pig prices and stiff competition hit the meat activities and Unigate estimated that the three month delay in putting through the 1p increase on a pint of milk cost £1.6 million.

Unigate's dairy product range and its marketing thrust will allow it to take advantage of the trend towards low fat dairy products and the purchase of J P Wood, the poultry company, could prove to be timely and profitable.

However, the group is still struggling to reduce its borrowings. There will be little fall at the year end and there is just a hint that working capital is threatening to get out of hand again.

The implications of this are not lost on Unigate's mangement, and the much tighter financial controls now in place should ensure that a tight rain onfunds is maintained. The group has a solid foundation in its core businesses and while spectacular growth might not be the order of the day, the basic corporate strategy should lead to steady improvement. The shares were down 5p to 151p but will not excite until the group's earnings potential materializes.

RHP

RHP's struggle to survive in the 1980s has included a capital reconstruction, factory closures, slashed dividends, redundancies, a drive on costs; and all the other techniques of modernization which ought to have been applied in the industry over the past century.

A tenfold improvement in pretax profits to £6.2 million, accompanied by news of a sharp reduction in debt and a 133 per cent improvement in the final dividend, points to a comeback only marginally less spectacular than Lazarus'. But is the recovery sustainable?

A sales gain of just 3 per cent to about £106 million provides investors with vital clues. According to RHP, the turnover figure comprises static volumes, but takes in a deliberate drive away from the old low margin-high volume business in the direction of better margin activities. Here RHP can exploit its high technology background, and command better prices.

Hence RHP's capacity cuts add up to a lower breakeven point, implying in turn that the improved orderbook is written at sensible tariffs and really is a proxy for better earnings.

At 82p, the shares have outperformed the market by 105 per cent in the last year. Investors ought to climb aboard. In 1980, RHP was making £10 million pretax.

Smith Brothers

Wounds of playing the international securities game appear separately for the first time on the half-year profit and loss account of Smith Brothers, the market's third largest stockjobber.

Losses here for the six months to October 26 grew from £291,000 to £1.3 million. Smith is a big player in the gold share market and few have had a good time this year. Smith's losses are accentuated by start-up costs of the new international dealership Smith New Court, where N M Rothschild has a 49 per cent stake.

The bank holds 29.9 per cent of the Stock Exchange firm. Mr Tony Lewis, Smith's chairman, admits its name and financial muscle has helped business. Profits made from the floor of the Lonn Stock Exchange both in stocks and traded options boomed fron just over £1 million to £3.15 million

At the pretax level profits increased 123 per cent to £1.789 million. Mr Lewis is positive about the second-half which is barely a month old. As a sign of confidence the dividend is lifted 50 per cent to 1.5p.

AE

The stock market's reaction to full-year figures from AE, the motor components manufacturer, showing pretax profits had leapt from £400,000 to £17.3 million, was one of mild disappointment and the shares closed 1p lower at 107p. This was mean even if AE's splendid recovery was well anticipated.

The group has rarely been in such good shape and things can only get better by the look of it. The motor components market as a whole was down last year but helped by booming exports and significant further penetration of the home market, sales by the British-based companies rose 14 per cent in volume. AE was especially successful in taking market share from its old bid adversary, Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

Growth by the overseas companies was more pedestrian but even so, when added to the export performance, more than half of AE's sales were outside Britain last year.

Despite much higher capital expenditure and the costs of servicing the big upturn in volume, there was a cash inflow into the group last year of £6.5 million after taking account of the £15 million the group made on the disposal of Edmunds Walker, its distribution network. This enabled AE to cut its gearing level from _ per cent to _ per cent.

The group disposed of its last big remaining problem area when it sold Walker in August and though South Africa remains troublesome and France unprofitable, the group looks easily capable of achieving a £25 million profit this year. At 107p the shares yield 5.7 per cent.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Americans go for Whitbread

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

American investors have suddenly acquired the taste for the Whitbread brewing group. In active trading yesterday the shares jumped 7p to 214p, their highest level.

The Whitbread buying spree was accompanied by suggestions that the group is about to extend its already significant interest in the American wines and spirits industry.

Two months ago, Whitbread splashed out £91 million for the Buckingham Corporation which handles, among other brands, Cutty Sark Scotch whisky in the US. In 1982, it paid £56 million for another US drinks distributor, Julius Wile.

APV Holdings, the heat transfer and refrigeration engineers, took a knock as Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee, the stockbroker, downgraded its profit forecast. The broker now thinks the second-half will not show the usual boost in earnings, leaving the full-year figure well down on 1983's £18.4 million. The shares fell 15p to 208p.

The brewing group could be thinking of yet another US buy, or it may be negotiating to distribute other brands through its now-extensive US network.

Whitbread's shares have performed strongly this year but the current brewing favourite is Bass, which has jumped from 300p to 453p. These two have outpaced the rest of the industry, particularly the regionals which have lagged a long way behind.

Of the national breweries, Whitbread is the only one with a two-tier voting structure and it is still effectively controlled by the Whitbread family through its high voting B shares. The Whitbread Investment Co, which is 49 per cent-owned by the brewery, has about 28 per cent of Whitbread's votes.

Shares strengthened after a weak start. At the close, the FT 30-share index registered a 5.3-point gain to 927.6. The FT SE share index rose 6 points to 1,196.7.

Once again **British Telecom** ruled sentiment. The price touched a new 98½ peak before easing to 98p. The flow of small selling persisted but was easily absorbed by institutional buying. Early trading was influenced by some weighty American selling but again there was no shortage of institutional shareholders keen to pick up the stock.

Insurance shares enjoyed a knee-jerk upsurge on the suspension of **Hambro Life Assurance**. But many of the gains quickly evaporated. **Prudential**, at one time 27p up at 525p, finished at 505p. **Pearl** suffered a similar experience. **Sun Life** went from 724p to 757p before relapsing to 739p.

Buyers were sniffing around **House of Fraser** shares again yesterday, helping the price gain 8p to 312p. Market men's thoughts immediately turned to Lonrho, in case the latter had come back for more of the Harrods store group, but a spokesman for Lonrho would make no comment.

Lonrho sold a 29.9 per cent take in House of Fraser early last month, but within a few weeks was back with a newly-purchased 6.3 per cent holding.

Buyers were also in the ascendency at **Associated Paper Industries** as the shares rose 8p to 194p. The market enjoyed the group's 55 per cent jump in annual profits, and is looking kindly on the gradual change in its earnings profile. API is making a switch away from its traditional paper making business into new products and growth areas.

A line of 375,000 API shares was put through the market yesterday without damaging the new trading peak for the price.

Powell Duffryn recieved a boost from takeover talk. Hanson Trust are said to be interested in making a bid for Powell, as well as for a few others on the London lists, and the Powell share price rose 10p to 336p.

Metal Box, another share apprently on the Hanson shopping list, gained 4p more to 382p.

Hanson Trust itself slipped back 4p to 289p. But this is also a traditional time of year for investment managers to switch out of Hanson and seek price performance elsewhere.

BTR usually benefits from the move away from Hanson, and there were signs of that. The BTR price gained 15p to 559p. City men are also looking forward to the BTR year-end in two weeks' time, and analysts are getting their figures ready for pre-announcement circulars.

Turner & Newall stayed on the list of market favourites, rising 5p to 111p after a recent meeting with analysts and improved profit forecasts from certain stockbroking firms.

Morceau Holdings, the fire protection specialists, burst into life with a 13p rise to 173p, a new peak for the shares. The company got a mention in a City newsletter and is due to report full-year figures soon. The market confidently expects the group to beat the £1.2 million profit forecast made at the time of its stock market debut in February.

Newcomer **Penny & Giles** began USM market life at a price of 158p, comfortably up on the 130p placing price. The company, which makes high technology measurement and control equipment, had 23.5 per cent of its shares placed through Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker.

Candover Investments, the management buy-out and risk equity specialist, gained a price of 178p on its first day, against a placing price of 160p a share.

Oils were fairly steady behind falling crude prices. **Burmah Oil** was again influenced by takeover suggestions, equalling its share peak at 225p.

Imperial Chemical Industries jumped 18p to 688p, just below its peak. The shares were helped by American buying, the encouraging tone at a pharmaceutical seminar and the takeover of the chemical operations of the US Beatrice group.

A chat wih Simon & Coates, the stockbroker, has done Meggitt Holdings a world of good. The company met the broker this week, and yesterday the share price rose 6p to 60p. Simon & Coates believe that Meggitt, under the direction of Mr Ken Coates and Mr Nigel McCorkell, has a bright future. The two directors bought into the machine tool group just over a year ago, having made their names in the successful build-up of Flight Refuelling.

Vaux Breweries held at 242p after its profits and share placing. **Management Agency and Music** continued to respond to the share interest taken by **Chrystalis**. At one time, the shares reached 160p before closing unchanged at 154p.

The profit fall cut 11p from the **Canvermoor** soft drinks group at 75p while **CPU Computers** fell 21p to 67p on the break-even annual meeting statement. **Tootal** came in for mid-morning attention, jumping 3p to 66p on, it was thought, US interest.

Gilts were a weak market and by the close long-dated stocks had fallen by as much as a point. Sellers were influenced by the weakness of sterling against the dollar.

US bonds were also tired, after poor US retail sales figures, despite cuts in American broker loan rates, and Wall Sreet sentiment badly needs the encouragement of good money supply figures. In London, however, index linked stocks outperformed conventional gilts, closing about a quarter up, after profit taking, after favourable comment in *The Times*.

Ratners, the jewellery retail chain, pushed close to its best trading level, rising 2p tp 53p. Yesterday saw the shareholders' meeting to confirm the company's takeover of Terry's, a chain of 26 shops, and the share price rise marked City enthusiasm for the purchase.

Ratners is also in the midst of its best selling season, Christmas; although the benefits will not be apparent in the half-year figures due in January.

The end of Mr Robert Maxwell's bid for **John Waddington** left the Monopoly group's shares 27p down at 475p. **United Scientific** rose 13p to 218p as profits emerged above worst estimates

● Winning a cut of the action

How one man got a slice of the mountain-axe trade

By David Black

In Hugh McNicholl's opinion, you must have style. The philosophy might appear self-indulgent for someone in the mountaineering-equipment business, but the success of his company Mountain Technology (Glencoe) proves otherwise.

In the outdoor sports boom in the West, producing a technically adequate product is not enough, he says. With more and more people climbing mountains for fun rather than machismo, "aesthetic" aspects are becoming just as important when it comes to winning the market over, says Mr McNicholl, whose main line is the manufacture of his own design of ice axe. "Appearance is a big thing," he adds. "I've been able to combine functional quality with a really good looking, no-nonsense design. I'm selling – and taking business away from the big boys".

The "big boys" are the French, Austrians and Germans, who until now have cornered the world market. However, in four years Mr McNicholl's firm has lured away 20 per cent of the UK market in ice axes, estimated at up to 10,000 sales a year.

This year already he has sold 3,000 axes and reckons on another 3,000 before April. He is also set to expand his US outlets, and is about to launch on the Japanese market. A trial order for £2,000 worth of axes for the Far East placed in the autumn has sold out and he now expects to quadruple the Japanese business next year.

Mr McNicholl, who has 20 years of climbing experience and is a member of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue team, launched Mountain Technology late in 1981 with £8,000 of his own cash and £25,000 in grants and loans from the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

As a result of a Rolls-Royce apprenticeship, and latterly, experience as a technician in Strathclyde University's Electrical Engineering department, he was well-versed in the problems of dealing with high-strength steel and light alloys. He solved a lack of business knowledge by going on one of the first Manpower Services Commission-sponsored 16-week business-administration courses at Strathclyde.

Initially, the HIDB provided him 3,000 square feet of portable huts at Ballachulish at the mouth of Loch Leven, near Glencoe. Last year he moved into a custom-built, 9,000 sq ft factory, again provided by the HIDB, down the Loch at North Ballachulish, where he now employs four workers and is looking for a fifth.

To fund the expansion he raised £40,000 from the Parsons Venture Capital fund and the HIDB. Turnover is now about £80,000 a year and expected to rise as foreign markets expand. The US, where sector sales are now the same a Britain, is set for a similar boom as took place in this country 10 years ago, M McNicoll claims. With a direct-sale agreement with a cooperative chain on the West Coast and an agent in New York, he is estimating a 10 per cent share of US ice axe sales this year giving him a vital pre-boom foothold.

Apart from a standard line of four different ice axes and a climbing hammer, selling at about £40 each, Mountain Technology also manufactures pitons, snow stakes and avalanche probes. It also makes Hamish McInnes-designed rescue stretchers (about 80 a year) and other rescue equipment to customer specifications.

The metal components are all forged under contract by a Birmingham firm. "I could never do that myself. It would be too expensive and so noisy", he says. They are then ground down and finished at North Ballachulish.



Hugh McNicholl in his Scottish factory: "combining function with a good-looking product"





"He's not seeing anyone unless they are carrying embarrassingly expensive presents for him"

● A Co-op franchise experiment

Venture capital: the neat breakthrough

By Derek Harris

A neat breakthrough in the way venture-capital funds place investments in small businesses is being pushed through by London Enterprise Agency (LEA), which was the first pioneering enterprise agency when it was set up in 1979.

Agreement is likely soon for a major pension fund to set up a venture-capital scheme which will make investments in much smaller businesses than conventional venture-capital organizations have been able to consider. Because of the cost of assessment of any company and subsequent monitoring, few conventional funds invest less than £100,000. Brian Wright, LEntA's director, said: "This has left a major gap in the market".

Under the LEntA-inspired scheme, LEntA would carry out the assessment of a small company's financial and trading prospects. It would still leave the pension fund to make a final judgment but the main assessment cost would not fall on the fund.

The cost of accountant monitoring subsequently would be met by the small business involved but give the importance of such management information in keeping a company on the right track it would be value for money, said Mr Wright.

Investments under the new scheme of between £5,000 and £50,000 should be possible, according to Mr Wright. There would still remain the question on how the pension fund would eventually realise its investment in the small business. One way would be if the company grew to the point where shares could be offered in the over the counter (OTC) market or even, on the most optimistic view, could go to the Unlisted Securities Market (USM).

But a more likely development is that once the small business had a track record and some growth it could go successfully to more conventional venture-capital sources. Some banks have shown interest in moving in at that point in a side-by-side arrangement with a conventional fund, said Mr Wright.

LEntA's "marriage bureau", which links private investors with small businesses, is also flourishing, according to Mr Wright. There are now plans to make this a national operation. With its 50 per cent success rate the bureau has found it needs to concentrate on getting right the personal chemistry between investor and small business because of their close association.

A showcase project for new products from small businesses is also being considered by LEntA. A London West End location is likely but a decision on the format, whether a shop or a samples showroom, has still to be made.

Next year LEntA is to launch a scheme to help university graduates start their own businesses. It will be aimed primarily at graduates in design. Training will be provided, together with workshop or office accommodation and subsequent counselling help.

● Contact: *London Enterprise Agency, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB; phone (01) 236 2675.*

BRIEFING

■ The Co-op has launched a franchising experiment – already opening up to all-comers – as a possible solution to many small outlets which are being closed down because they are unprofitable, Derek Harris writes. The idea is to turn some into bright, modern convenience stores open from early until late on a pattern already successfully launched, notably by Spar, the "symbol" franchise chain.

The convenience sector is a growing one. Other symbol groups are following the same route, as are chains such as Sperrings and, from the US, the 7-Eleven group.

If the Co-op experiment, just started with two stores in Manchester, proves successful, it could lead to as many as 50 franchise outlets being opened each year. Last year the Co-op closed some 500 small outlets. The experiment is being made by Manchester-based Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), whose main role is supplying the more than 100 retail societies within the Co-operative movement. But it has retail operations in Scotland and earlier this year added the London territory of the old South Suburban Co-operative Society.

Two stores in the South Suburban territory are being selected to be offered as franchises on the open market. They are expected to open early next year as part of the experiment.

The Co-op convenience stores are trading under the banner of Late Late Supershops and carry "top up" items of food, newspapers and magazines, drinks and rented videos. They are also identified as Co-op outlets.

■ Enterprise agencies, now numbering around 200, are helping create 164 jobs each year. This emerges from a new study of agencies by Business in the Community, the umbrella body for the agency movement. The job creation figures leaves out of account the number of jobs preserved in existing usinesses advising which takes up 30 per cent of agency time.

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*(Source: Fortune Magazine.)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PIPE-LINES ACT, 1962
Notice of an application for an authorisation to divert a pipeline

Imperial Chemical Industries PLC hereby give notice, in accordance with the provisions of Part II of Schedule I of the Pipe-lines Act, 1962, that an application has been made to the Secretary of State for Energy for the grant of an authorisation for the diversion of part of their Wilton/Runcorn ethylene pipeline. The diversion will run between a point of connection with the Pipeline in land adjacent to the southerly side of the Manchester Ship Canal at Moore and a point of connection with the Pipeline adjacent to the northerly side of the Manchester Ship Canal, in land at Acton, all in the County of Cheshire.

Copies of the map which accompanies the application, showing the proposed route of the pipeline may be inspected during normal office hours at:

Department of Energy
Room 1053
Thames House South
Millbank, London, SW1P 4QJ
Warrington Borough Council
Town Hall
Warrington, WA1 1UH
Cheshire County Council
County Hall
Chester, CH1 1SF.

Objections to this proposal should be made in writing and bear the reference PEP 75/726/18 and be sent to the Secretary of State for Energy at Thames House South, Room 1053, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QJ, to arrive not later than the 22nd January, 1985.

S. G. WILLIAMS,
Authorised Signatory for and on behalf of Imperial Chemicals Industries PLC.
Imperial Chemical House,
Millbank,
London, SW1P 3JF.
10th December 1984.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
IN THE MATTER OF YELP LIMITED
Nature of business: Designers and Manufacturers of Men's clothing.
Winding-up Order made 5 November, 1984. Date and place of first meeting: The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP.
Creditors 23 January, 1985, at 10.30 am. Contributories 23 January, 1985, at 11.00 am.

H. ROACH,
Deputy Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.
Tel. No. 021 236 8831/7.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 005442 of 1984
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
In the Matter of ADDLETON LIMITED (formerly Michael Greene & Co (Estate Agents) Limited) and
In the Matter of The Companies Act 1948

Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 22nd day of August 1984 presented to the said Court by Susan Sophie Rivlin of 9 Bee Hale Close, Stanmore, Middlesex. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 4th day of February 1985, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his Counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

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Solicitors to the Petitioner

NOTE – Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named, notice in writing of his intentions so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 1st day of February 1985.

RAVELSTOW ELECTRICS LTD
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd floor), London W2 6LF, on Tuesday the 18th December 1984 at 12.00 midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated the 3rd day of December 1984.

J. R. KING, Director

JONATHEN CLARKE ANTIQUES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (Second Floor) London W2 6LF on Wednesday the 19th day of December 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated the 4th day of December 1984.

JOHN E. CLARKE, Director.

In the Matter of BRINDLEY FABRICS LTD
and
In the Matter of the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981.

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 10th day of January 1985, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Kenneth Dunkley of College Hill Chambers, 23 College Hill, London EC4R 2RT the Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 11th day of December 1984.

KENNETH DUNKLEY
Liquidator

BRIGHTLIFE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on Thursday the 20th day of December 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated the 4th day of December 1984.

C. BRIDGEMAN, Director

FOLLOWCHOICE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Robert Elliot & Partners situated at Egyptian House, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD on Tuesday the 18th day of December 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated the 4th day of December 1984.

D. MAY, Director.

Silloth Shipping Company Limited
Notice is Hereby Given, pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 243 Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1DH on Thursday, 20th day of December 1984, at 10.00 a.m. or so soon thereafter as the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the company convened for the same day and place shall have been concluded or adjourned, for the purposes set out in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
By Order of the Board

R. A. D. Cresswell, Secretary

Dated the 11th day of December 1984

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
IN THE MATTER OF ACE VENDING LIMITED
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE: 29 October 1984
Date and place of first meetings
Creditors: Friday 11 January 1985 at 2.30 p.m. at The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP
Contributories: Friday 11 January 1985 at 3.00 p.m. at The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP
H ROACH
Deputy Official Receiver for Provisional Liquidator
Tel. 021 236 8831.

CARATHAN LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Robert Elliot & Partners situated at Egyptian House, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD on Tuesday the 18th day of December 1984 at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated the 4th day of December 1984.

DAVID D. MAY, Director

The Companies Acts 1948 to 1981
BRINDLEY FABRICS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Kenneth Dunkley, FCCA, ACIS, the Liquidator, College Hill Chambers, 23 College Hill, London, EC4R 2RT on Thursday, the 10th day of January 1985, at 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of receiving an Account of the Liquidator's acts and dealings and of the conduct of the Winding-Up during the year to 19th October, 1984. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the Liquidator not later than 3 pm on the day before the meeting.
Dated this 11th day of December, 1984

Kenneth Dunkley
Liquidator

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

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APPOINTMENTS

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Walter Wriston talks to Peter Wilson-Smith

Master of change welcomes City's 'inevitable' revolution

‘If you were to look at the London market five years from now, it will be a mosaic. There will be some big hitters, there will be some boutiques, and there will be some guys on the margin. The big players will be the ones that can make the cultural change. If they can not do that, why then, they won't be players’.

Adapting to change is a recurring theme in the Walter Wriston philosophy. It is one of the reasons, he believes, that Citicorp, from which he retired as chairman and chief executive in September, is where it is today and is one of only four companies listed on the New York stock market which has paid a dividend every year since 1812.

In the Wriston scale of things, the changes now afoot in London's securities industry are nothing less than inevitable. Full of praise for the attitude of the United Kingdom authorities and the Bank of England whose liberal approach allowed the Euromarkets to take root in London, he argues that the barriers between the free international market in London and the protected domestic market are now disappearing.

"I couldn't say strongly enough the global market place has moved from rhetoric to reality. It has to be built into your thinking and your corporate plan. The marriage of telecommunications and computers has really created something new under the sun. It is not a difference of degree, it is difference of kind and therefore it is as revolutionary in my humble opinion as the invention of the steam engine or the automobile. I think we are just beginning to peer through the glass darkly. What it means is basically there is no place to hide.

"There is no separation any more between domestic and foreign markets. Communications being what they are the global market would bring pressure on the London market to be more competitive on rates."

He sees London's fixed commissions as an anomaly which does not exist in the other big markets and stresses that the global market means that people have the option of trading shares anywhere. Technology has made that possible and has also dramatically altered the timescale in which financial transactions are undertaken. Mr Wriston recalls the time when Citibank had two board meetings and put out a thick prospectus just to raise $100m. But communications and such innovation as shelf-registrations have changed all that.

"It is a matter of almost total indifference to our chief financial officer whether he raises five-year $200 million in London or New York or any other good place. That was not true as recently as five years ago. And you have this extraordinary thing of windows opening or closing in 20 minutes."

Mr Wriston believes that the changes under way in London involving moving from fixed to negotiated commissions in the securities industry may have similar consequences to those that ensued in New York in the 1970s. Indeed the changes may be rather more traumatic in London because of the present separation between jobbers and brokers in London.



Walter Wriston: there is no place to hide

"In the United States there were a lot of casualties. People with high fixed overheads were casualties, people who were not quick on their feet, who had built a cost structure based on fixed commissions", he says. He sees a shake-out of this kind as one of the consequences of suddenly removing the protection from any industry which has been accustomed to operating in a protected market.

So who will succeed in the new environment? Will it be those clearing banks which are welding together their own investment banking and securities trading arms? Will it be the groupings being formed around merchant banks or somebody else?

Mr Wriston has no doubt that Citicorp will be a key player. It is buying two significant London stockbrokers, Vickers de Costa and Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee which are merging next year, to form part of its global investment banking arm.

As for the others, Mr Wriston says: "Clearly the people that have a culture, experience and track record in capital raising have a head start; there is no question about that. Those are probably merchant banking types. People who have just been brokers, who adjust from a fixed commission to a free market without experience in the other sides of it, if there are such people, will, I suppose, have the worst of the lot."

He does not believe that sheer size alone will be the key to success and cites the example of Goldman Sachs in New York: "It is not the largest kid on the block but its is extremely able and extremely profitable and makes very good business. Big is not necessarily beautiful but smart is", Mr Wriston says.

However, Mr Wriston does not for a moment write-off the clearing banks as important participants. They will probably be major players in this area too but he stresses that they will have to adjust to the culture shock.

Citicorp's own experience in adapting itself to cope with conflicting cultures is instructive. Under Mr Wriston an investment banking group has been built up by welding mergers and acquisitions and then venture capital on to a large and international bond trading operation. Today, its investment bank ranks number one in the worldwide interest sales market, is among the top three dealers in US government securities and is one of the largest venture capital companies in the world.

To accomodate the cultural clashes, the merchant banking side was split five years ago in the same way that consumer banking had previously been separated from corporate banking. Today Citicorp embraces three separate businesses, individual, institutional and investment banking and there are two emerging embryos – insurance and information.

The structure is considered very much one of Mr Wriston's legacies and insiders admit has sometimes been a painful but necessary process to allow the differing activities to develop to the full.

‘We are beginning to peer through the glass darkly’

To what extent the clearing banks follow such a radical path remains to to be seen. But Mr Wriston has no doubt that it is a problem which has to be tackled.

"It is not as easy as the books at business school tell you it is, because they are all human beings involved."

However, Mr Wriston seems to feel that London still has plenty going for it as a financial centre. As for the British and their ability to adapt to change, he says: "I think the British were pioneers in global market-places in many respects in that they attracted to this island the Euromarket because the world had confidence that their funds would not be stolen, taxed away, frozen or whatever and to that extent I suppose they were the first people who understood it."

Brum-Brum as the second city hits the pedal on the road to glamour



Birmingham's recent sight and sound of things to come; spinning the grand prix wheels in the hub of England

The Monaco of the Midlands



Into the Pershore Street left-hander, face grim beneath your visor... through the taut excitement of Bromsgrove Street... on past the mosque in a toe-numbing burn... on round into the unforgettable vista of Bristol Street... can you handle that much torque? Who could ever deny that Birmingham is the most exciting city in the world?

Yes, the Birmingham motor racing grand prix kite is flying high in a howling gale of local enthusiasm and the would-be organizers are talking excitedly about holding motor racing in the very streets of Birmingham in the summer of 1986. "All" they now need is parliamentary approval: a Bill was deposited in the House of Commons (from a car driven by Stirling Moss) at the end of November, and if all goes according to the hopes of its backers, will get royal assent by next July. The leader of the Birmingham City Council, Dick Knowles ("Sit down, brother"), estimates the chances at 70-30 in favour.

And they are awfully, tub-thumpingly and patriotically serious about the whole motor race notion over at the Birmingham Council House. So much so that the party political guerrillas of council corridors have established a truce on the issue: they voted 90 in favour and 13 against taking the scheme to parliament. Parliament must give the nod before the streets can be closed off for the event.

"A motor race will put over the true image of Birmingham to the world," declared Councillor Knowles, bubbling over with joy at the thought of the television cameras of the world pointing at the green trees and high rise blocks of the city. "Second city? I reckon Birmingham is the first city."

It is generally accepted that Birmingham is the most boring place in England, if not the world lacking both northern character and southern glitter. Birmingham people disagree but the image didn't matter too much when Birmingham was simply a manufacturing centre. But with the decline of manufacturing industries Birmingham has been promoting itself as the place for tourism, conventions and exhibitions: no matter what else is true about Birmingham, it is dead easy to get to. Birmingham stages the Motor Show. Tourism, for what they call the Heart of England area was worth £35 million in 1983.

"What Birmingham lacks", said Marjorie Brown tellingly, "is an Eiffel Tower". The chairman of the council's general purposes committee went on to elaborate: she meant a symbol, a knee-jerk image. The knee-jerk notion is, in truth, Birmingham equally boring. That is bad for business. Now Monaco is different: Monaco equals motor racing, on the very streets. Glamour and class adhere in an instant. Birmingham is revenous for an image of glamour and class.

Martin Home was the man who came up with the notion originally in 1970. He has a disconcerting habit of lobbing biblical quotations into his conversation: but he did not describe himself as the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He wouldn't like you to think of his beloved Birmingham as a wilderness.

Hone runs International Festival Services, who promote the race on the council's behalf. He has also staged for the council a number of rallies and motor calvalcades full of historic racing cars, driven by such people as Fangio, Moss, Brabham, Hunt and Salvadori. Hone was a racing car driver himself (he drove Porsches) and is in love with the game and with the prospect of bringing it on to the streets of Birmingham.

The proposed circuit itself has been changed and the current version is on roads that were not even built in 1970. Sad to say, the notion of Lauda and Prost whizzing round and round the Bull Ring is not accurate. "It is a driver's circuit," Hone said. "And it was designed by experts. The world's top drivers have said they would love the chance to race on it. It incorporates a dead-stop corner, long curves, climbs and dips and high-speed straights."

"The council are prepared to undertake all kinds of fiddly little tasks to make the roads suitable for racing: removing traffic islands, shifting kerbs, throwing up temporary fotbridges. Crash barriers would obviously be erected along with catch fences and screens: the total cost of the improvements is reckoned at £1.5 million. But the race is seen as a long-term profit-maker.

The city cannot kick off with Formula One racing: two international events must be staged before an application to stage a Formual One grand prix can be even considered. The plan is to start with a programme if international championship event.

"It is not our aim to take over the British Grand Prix," Hone said. "That is jealously guarded and quite rightly. But there is a place for us, too. Last year the British Grand Prix attracted 161,000 people over three days. Last summer our On the Streets rally attracted in a single afternoon 200,000 people. The race will do more than anything else to put over the image of Birmingham as a glamorous and exciting place."

Glamorous Birmingham remains a hard idea to take. It is a 180-degree corner for most of us: can we handle that much torque? "People come back from Monaco and say 'I drove the circuit'," Hone said. "I believe it will not be long before they say the same thing of Birmingham."

RUGBY UNION: COLOURFUL AUSTRALIANS CHOOSE 37-YEAR-OLD

Australians go all sentimental

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

The Austrialians, showing a welcome sentimentality, have included in the side to play the Barbarians at Cardiff tomorrow, those senior players who, for various reasons, missed selection for the internationals on the current tour.

They include Hawker, Cox Roche (who played against Ireland), Reynolds, and the engaging Pilecki, who at 37, does not expect to be touring for his country again. However, this does restore to the side all but two of the players who ran New Zealand so close in three internationals during the summer.

The first exception is Moon, the left wing, who broke his arm playing against England and returned home last month. Campese moves to that wing, and Hawker, normally a centre and used much on this tour as a stand-off half, plays on the right, leaving undisturbed Lynagh's fruitful partnership with Slack in the centre.

The other omission is that of Rodriguez, who has had such an outstanding year in Australian colours. Pilecki is his replacement, and the only slight regret is that as Reynolds is to play, there is no place for the outstanding young No 8, Tuynman. Not that he will mind; his tour deeds speak for themselves.

AUSTRALIANS: R Gould; M Hawker, A slack (captain), M Lynagh, D Campese; M Ella, P Cox; S Pilecki, T Lawton, A McIntyre, S Poidevin, S Williams, S Cutler, C Roche, R Reynolds. Replacements: N Farr-Jones, J Black, P Grigg, E Rodriguez, W Campbell, S Truman.

British gallery seeks recovery of lost art

By Gerald Davies

I doubt very much whether rugby held much charm for Neville Cardus. But a good deal of what he perceived to be the essence of his game's character and the variety of its appeal, can often be seen in rugby.

"Go among the shilling crowd and fine day", he once wrote of the Oval, "and what do you hear? Little technical jargon, little talk of off-breaks and the position of the left funnybone in the left cut". No, the overall effect was what mattered to him: the completeness of the beautiful stroke.

Colin Deans, the Scotland hooker has pulled out of the Barbarians team he was to lead againt Australia in the final match of their tour at Cardiff tomorrow.

He is replaced by Mike Watkins, but a new Barbarians captain has still to be named.

And I do not suppose that the position of the funnybone, the shoulder or the exact spacing of the feet in the ruck matters much to the man standing on the "tanner" bank at Stradey, St Helens or, away from the coastal belt, in Eugene Cross Park. Although there is the tackle he can savour and the sinister magic of the sidestep, it is the general impression that appeals.

The art of any game is to conceal the artifice; not to give the game away by showing your intentions. The player's art, like the actor's art, should not reveal the energy and the thought, the sweat and the spit, and the theory that has gone on into rehearsal. Nor should the anxiety surface from beneath the skin. Come the performance it somehow should look easy and effortless.

This may seem a long way round to get to the Australians' game, but theirs has been made to seem easy and effortless. The observer is not aware of the detail of their game, only of the overall colourful impression.

The trouble with our domestic game is that too many players look as if they have been reading too many books about the game and have brought their theories onto the field. As each forward bends his head and dips his shoulder, as each threequarter labours along his path and the crash move follows, they do so painfully, in the shadow of the textbook. Or rather, perhaps, in the shadow of the coach who has read the textbook. It is "the funnybone synbdrome".

For the British game, the most inspiring moment of the week came in the Varsity match, as the students, particularly Cambridge, for once ignored their textbooks. It was not Bailey's run and swivel, marvellous though they were, that one remembers most, nor Hasting's sprint or Simm's try, but that very lonely moment for Andrew when he bravely changed his mind, ignored the obvious and, triumphantly, took a calculated risk on his own 22-metre line. There was a lot of forgotten British rugby in that.

Rives retires

Paris (Reuter) – Jean-Pierre Rives, the former French captain, announced his retirement from international rugby yesterday because of long-standing shoulder and neck injuries.

Trent's and the Ley's perfect term

By Michael Stevenson

Trent College have finished the term unbeaten, the first time that this has been achieved since 1932, when Prince Obolensky was in the team. This autumn, Trent have registered 14 wins from 14 matches (the 1932 team drew one), scoring 331 points and conceding 107.

Their last match, against **Worksop**, was played in front of a considerable crowd: Trent won 62-3, scoring 11 tries, with Doleman, who has himself scored 157 points this season, contributing a try, two penalties and five conversions.

The Ley's school have flourished just as impressively, with 14 wins from as many matches and 346 points to 98 conceded. Their most recent victories were against **Bedford Modern** (19-3) and **Bishop's Stortford** (15-10).

The Ley's outstanding player and captain, their No 8, White, was injured against Bedford. The fly-half, Bailey, took over and scored all 15 points against Bishop's Stortford

The Armidale School from New South Wales, who are coached by John Hipwell, have had a very successful tour. They beat **Gordonstoun, Royal High School Dungannon** and **Christ's College Brecon** before going down to **St Michael's Dublin**. They have recently visited **Rugby** where a delightful second-half display brought them victory (27-6) and **Mill Hill**, where they lost 24-0.

In spite of injury problems, **Glenalmond** were victorious in both their southern matches, beating **Marlborough** on Monday (15-10) and **Tonbridge** on Wednesday (13-7)

BOBSLEIGH

Phipps rips up British record book

From Chris Moore, Igls

Nick Phipps set his fourth British record of the season yesterday during practice for tomorrow's four-man event in the British Championships, sponsored by Allied Street. In the space of the last month the Londoner has also broken the two-man record at Berhof and the two and four-man records at Winterberg.

His time at 54.50sec on his opening run yesterday was 26 hundredths of a second inside the previous British best on the Austrian track, set last year by the defending champion here, John Deere, despite having so far had to use a replacement crewman for Paddy Bredin, who flies out from England to join the team tonight.

Deere was almost a second slower yesterday, but expected to get closer to Phipps tomorrow when he is being lent a new sledge by the former world champion, Eric Scharer.

With the world championships at Cervinia only a month away, the East Germans are threatening to continue their dominance of the sport. The Olympic champion, Wolfgang Hoppe, and the runner-up, Bernhard Lehmann, have been training here all week, along with the leading Swiss and Italian drivers, and have consistently been over a second faster than anyone else.

MOTOR RACING

Williams-Honda sign with new sponsors

By John Blunsden

The Williams-Honda grand prix team cars of Keke Rosberg and Nigel Mansell will be be seen in a new white, blue and yellow colour scheme next season and will be entered as "Canon Williams" following Frank Williams's signature on a "seven figure contract" with the Japanese camera and business machine manufactuers.

The new arrangement means that for the first time since 1978 the Williams cars will not carry any sponsorship from the Arab world, althought ICI Fabrics, Denim and Mobil will continue to back the team.

A new car, designed by Patrick Head, is in an advanced stage of construction and will be the first Williams to be built around an entirely carbon-fibre chassis. It has been given the designation FW10.

Frank Williams has been anxious to secure Japanese sponsorship for his team ever since he switched to Honda engines, but his new change of backer, which he describes as being his largest-ever sponsorship deal, will not affect Canon's continuing support of Richard Lloyd's GI Engineering team, which in 1985 will again be running their Porsche 956 Group C cars in major endurance races, including Le Mans.

GOLF

More money to be earned on European tour

By Mitchell Platts

The spectacular growth of the Women's PGA tour continues with the annuncement in London yesterday that the 1985 circuit will be worth £500,000, despite the loss of the Ladies British Open, which carried £160,000 in prize money.

Ther is evidence, as there is on the men's circuit, for increasing support on the continent with the Hennessy Cognac Cup (at St Cloud, Paris), the Belgian Open and another event, to be finalized, each offering prize funds of £40,000.

The highlight of the British scene, which will be launched by the Ford Classic at Woburn on May 1, is the European Open sponsored by IBM, will be played at Kingswood, Surrey, on September 4 to 7 with the prize money increase from £25,000 to £35,000.

WPGA 1985 SCHEDULE: May 1-4 Ford Classic, Woburn (£20,000). May 8-11 Hennessy Cognac Cup, St Cloud, Paris (£40,000). May 17-19 Ulster Volkswagen classic, Belvoir Park (£15,000). May 22-25 British Olivetti Tournament, Moor Hall (£15,000). May 29-June 1 Gurnsey Open, Royal Guernsey (£15,000). June 6-9 To be announced (£40,000). June 12-15 McEwan's Wirral Classic, Caldy (£15,000). June 26-29 Belgian Open, Royal Waterloo (£40,000). July 11-14 LBS German Open, Braunfels (£30,000). July 24-27 Bloor Homes Eastleigh Classic, Fleming Park (£15,000). July 30-August 2 Colt Cars Jersey Open, Jersey (£15,000). August 15-18 Delsjo Open, Delsjo, Sweden (£25,000). August 22-25 Hoganas Open, Molle, Sweden (£35,000). Sept 4-7 IBM European Open, Kingswood (£35,000). Sept 25-28 Brend Hotels International, Saunton (£15,000). Oct 9-12 John Laing Classic, Stoke Poges (£20,000). Oct 15-18 Spanish Open, La Manga (£20,000).

VOLLEYBALL

Players see red over setter's disappearing act

By Paul Harrison

The English road into Europe turned into a Bulgarian cul-de-sac last weekend, when Capital City Spikers and Hillingdon Ladies were comprehensively knocked out of the European Champions' Cup by the greater strength of CSKA Sofia and Levski Spartak. Spikers and Hillingdon did not manage to win a set over the two legs.

In the English League, sponsored by Britvic, the first division leaders, Speedwell Rucanor, went down to Redwood Lodge, from Bristol, in five sets. Redwood were disrupted midway through the match when their setter Gary Jefferies had to leave to attend his firm's Christmas dinner. He had paid for the tickets and did not want to waste them.

The reserve setter, Peter Phillips, stepped in. Redwood lost the fourth set but reorganised themselves to take the deciding set. Jefferies has been dropped for this weekend's match with Leeds and Phillips keeps his place. The reaction of the rest of the Redwood players to Jefferies' departure was "unprintable", said Keith Nicholls, their coach.

In Scotland's Royal Bank League, Finnies Sport had to postpone their home match against Whitburn in a local school hall because of a shortage of fuel as a result of the miners' strike.

Sports Commentary

David Miller

Differences of opinion in football dressing-rooms between manager and player which escalate to the point of physical confrontation are not new. It's a man's game. I recall it happening in the Pegasus dressing-room. Bobby Robson once had to sort out an objectionable defender when he first started at Ipswich, and there are stories of a chair moving around the Highbury cloisters while temporarily unattached to the floor in the days of Frank McLintock and Bertie Mee.

The issue between Lawrie McMenemy and England's new young central defender, Mark Wright, at Southampton has a wider significance. It does not matter to us, although no doubt it matters a great deal to McMenemy and Wright, who pushed whom into the showers and why. That is for the pair of them to sort out domestically. What is quite unacceptable, and must be decisively dealt with by the Football Association, is Wright's exploitation of a private bout by giving details to a Sunday newspaper together with a posed picture beside a V-shaped New Forest tree which appeared to indicate a low opinion of McMenemy.

It is regrettable that Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, should be attempting to excuse Wright on the frail argument that what he said, or allowed to be written under his name, is true. If everything in the game that took place behind the dressing-room doors was written about, however true, its public reputation would be even more squalid than it is, what with drunken driving at Arsenal and the extra-curricular managerial romances of Maine Road and Old Trafford. To name but some.

We may long in vain for the day when the PFA see fit to condemn the excesses of their members: too often it seems to be a body immune to the moral temperature of the outside world on whom they depend. The FA who tend to get a legal nervous rash having lost their high-court case with Don Revie, should not be intimidated by any PFA defensiveness. Wright has behaved deplorably and Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, must announce unequivocally that Wright will not be selected for the next three international matches.

Playing for England is a privilege which he should temporarily forfeit as a lesson to others. This is no restraint of trade and the FA must demonstrate authority, not expediency. The irony of their attempted tenure suspension of Revie for his defection was that his *real* offence to English football was the initiation of so much calculated and damaging gamesmanship with Leeds, in spite of which they appointed him England manager in 1974.

The case confronting the British Boxing Board of Control is just as clear cut. The cartel operated by Jarvis Astaire, Mickey Duff, Mike Barrett and Terry Lawless has been improper and they should all be banned for not less than a year from entering into any form of contract directly controlling a boxer or his financial interest.

Astaire, Duff and Barrett are anything but unintelligent men: they must have known that such a merging of their financial interests and that of any boxer under Lawless's management, as disclosed by *The Sunday Times*, could be construed as not being in the best interests of the boxers.

For Barrett to claim that certain contests may have lost money is irrelevant. The British Boxing Board of Control's duty is not to protect profit but integrity. The future of professional boxing is parlous enough without such potential exploitation of the most vulnerable breed in sport.

The World Games, due to be staged in London next July and August at various venues, and providing a comptitive showcase for 24 sports not on the Olympic programme, is a novel idea but seems likely to fall short on both credibility and finance.

While waterskiing, speedway, tug-of-war, speed roller skating, roller hockey and even ten-pin bowling may be events which can attract a large potential audience, it is difficult to argue a sporting case for such activities as life-saving, fin swimming, body building and angling-casting which were among the 24 sports promoted at yesterday's launch by the organizers, West Nally.

The first World Games, featuring 16 sports, only just got off the ground in California in 1981, and although next year's event is to be screened by Channel 4, with a market overseas said to include Japan, United States and much of Asia, Europe and South America, there is no guarantee as yet of the sponsorship which will be required, not only to promote the individual sports spread around the Home Counties on a 30-mile radius, but to accommodate 1,600 competitors.

The best innovation proposed is that at the opening ceremony the competitors should enter, not by countries but by sports, which would reduce the nationalism which has become too extreme in the Olympics. But with only a few months to go, the administration seems unlikely, for example, to be able to cope with the influx of the world's press.

You would have no idea how many people are likely to turn up from North America, for example, to report on the extraordinary sight of those inflated muscles sported by the body-builders, or for karate and ten-pin bowling. If the World Games were really to get off the ground, I think they should have been half the size and should concentrate on the measurable sports.

FOOTBALL: VIOLENCE ON THE FIELD BY PLAYERS AND CROWD POSE PROBLEMS

Celtic await sentence of UEFA

By Peter Ball

Yesterday morning Celtic awoke facing the fact of their exit from European Cup competition. Not only from this season's European Cup Winners' Cup, which came from Wednesday's 1-0 second round defeat by and, on the night much superior Rapid Vienna side, but probably for several more years after the assaults on two Rapid players by men wearing Celtic favours.

Celtic can have no cause for complaints on the first count, their naive indivualistic attacks making little impact, and their departure already seemed assured early in the second half when a supporter ran out at the Stretford end and launched himself at Feurer, the goalkeeper.

Feurer fell into the back of the net and it took five policemen to remove the struggling assailant. At the end of the game the goal scorer Pacult, the most talented forward on view, was allegedly kicked in the groin as he left the field.

The disciplinary committee of UEFA will meet on January 7 to decide on their action when they have studied the reports of Luigi Agnolin, of Italy, the referee, and Erki Poroila, the Finnish official observer, especially so as the game was being replayed after a bottle throwing incident at Parkhead in November, and they will almost certainly decide that condign punishment is called for and that Celtic, like Rangers their Glasgow rivals, and Leeds United in the seventies, face a lengthy ban.

Rangers were banned for two years after their 1972 European Cup Winners Cup final victory in Barcelona over Moscow Dynamo, after their supporters had invaded the pitch on several occasions, and Leeds were banned for five years in 1975 after their supporters had destroyed part of the stand at the Parc des Princes after their European Cup Final defeat by Bayern Munich.

UEFA have been accused of failing to respond adequately in such matters in recent years, and their pussilanimous behaviour over this game, in which they first fined Rapid for the players' indiscipline at Parkhead and then, on appeal, ordered the game to be replayed, did not help matters.

Celtic's case, however, may well lead them to revert back to their earlier policy of bans, even though neither Rangers nor Leeds are exactly comparable precedents. But while the numbers involved justified the comments of Desmond White, the Celtic chairman, that it was the "action of two lunatics", such attacks on players will clearly have to be cracked down on if UEFA are to be taken seriously.

It is hard not to feel some sympathy for the club, whose representation of Britain in European Cup competition since they became the first British team to win the European Cup in 1967 has generally been praiseworthy. And many will sympathise with Mr White, who yesterday repeated his comments, adding: "Police confirmed that 99.9 per cent of our fans were very well behaved."

The game at Old Trafford began in an atmosphere so close to hysteria that such individual lunacies were heardly unexpected, especially as drunkenness is all too often the problem at football matches involving Scottish teams. In the words of one policeman inside the stand: "I have never seen so many drunks in one place before."



Kept in Czech: Crooks is sandwiched by Micinec and Marcik of Bohemians, but Tottenham squeezed a draw in Prague to win their UEFA Cup tie 3-1 on aggregate

Sunshine team under a shadow

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Manchester United continue to disobey all the modern rules. Whereas other sides, and particularly those involved in Europe, are supposed to follow conventional paths and wrap their ambitions in caution, they go their own recklessly adventurous way whatever the circumstances. Considering the limitations of their defence, they have little choice.

Spectators are enchanted by their carefree approach. It did not matter that no alcohol was available at Tannadice Park on Wednesday night. The entertainment during the second leg of their third round UEFA Cup tie was intoxicating enough on its own. They triumphed 3-2 and by 5-4 on aggregate, but the possibilities were almost endless.

Manchester United's superiority was clear, especially a fortnight ago. Even Jim McLean, Dundee United's manager, admitted that "the better side won" and yet once again they threatened to throw away their advantage by conceding two "soft" goals in both legs. If their hosts had not been so surprisingly generous they might not now be in the last eight.

No one, least of all the uncommitted, would want Manchester United's attitude to change. They are one of the few gleams of sunlight in an otherwise ever-widening sea of mediocrity. But Ron Atkinson, their manager, if not all of their numerous followers, would feel more comfortable if some concrete was poured around their defensive foundations.

Atkinson, who offered Ipswich Town £500,000 for Butcher some two months ago, is well aware of the weakness. He knows too that unless he soon strengthens his rearguard, his hopes of collecting either a continental or a domestic trophy will fall apart as predictably as his unsettled back four. If so, he may pay an expensive personal penalty.

It seemed appropriate that the squad should have stayed at St Andrew's and that their flight back to Manchester after the game should have been deplayed. Because their defence is as full of holes as the famous golf course outside their hotel, they are progressing at a substantially slower rate than they should.

After winning the Anglo Scottish was Manchester United can now push European thoughts to one side for three months and concentrate on the battle for the first division title. The will need to. Atkinson recalls that their two journeys to Hungary and the Netherlands earlier this season were both followed by heavy League defeats.

Spurs beat violent tendency

By Clive White

While UEFA will surely punish Celtic severely, following another sad example of British hooliganism during Wednesday's European competition, I doubt whether they will give much thought to the more shocking violence that was perpetrated on the field in Prague in the name of sport by the players of Bohemians. It would seem that UEFA attach greater importance to crowd violence, even attempted violence, than that committed by players – particularly if it is a British crowd. But the crime on the field must carry a greater stigma than the one on the terraces since it is the only one the clubs can realistically control.

A bottle thrown from the Czechoslovak crowd was the least of Tottenham Hotspur's worries as they attempted to avoid the next pair of flying studs, not to mention fists, in their UEFA Cup third round tie on Wednesday. It was no way to try to play a game of football. If it were boxing, Bohemians would have been disqualified before the finish.

Mr Ponnet, the Belgian referee, performed quite bravely in the hostile environment but inevitably missed many of the worse crimes off the ball. The UEFA observer complained to him at half-time that the match was becoming too violent and Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham manager, who commended the referee afterwards, also visited his dressing room at half-time to complain that his players were receiving insufficient protection.

There was a limit to how many times Tottenham could turn the other cheek. But they remained admirably restrained, even the rugged Roberts, who trod his tightrope with great agility until a moment's aberration cost him a second booking in this competition and suspension from the first leg of the quarter-final ties.

Real miracle of return to the past

Madrid (Reuter) – The Spanish Press yesterday echoed to the praise of Real Madrid, 6-1 winners over Anderlecht of Brussels, in the UEFA Cup third round second leg. The tone was set by a headline in *As*, the sports daily: "Much more than a miracle".

Several newspapers were reminded of the 1950s, when such wins were more commonplace. "Last night (the Real fan) entered a time tunnel, going back many years and more than one thought of the Real Madrid who won five (European) Cups," the daily, *El Pais*, said.

Madrid dailies were plashed with photographs of a jubilant Emilio Butragueno, the 21-year-old forward who scored three goals to help the Spanish side to a 6-4 aggregate win.

The Argentinian, Jorge Valdano, who scored twice, said: "I think that a win of this class has not occurred in the past 10 years."

"It was the Real of the old days," Enzo Scifo, the Anderlecht forward, said: "We believed in ourselves but they were much, much better."



Brady: penalty decider

Per Hansen, who scored the Belgians' only goal, was more succinct. "It was without doubt the best team I have played against in the whole of my life."

A penalty by Liam Brady in the 78th minute gave Internazionale Milan a 1-0 victory over Hamburg to secure a place in the quarter-finals. Hamburg had won the first leg match 2-1 but Inter went through on away goals.

In the first half Hamburg overwhelmed the home team in midfield, while their defenders kept Rummenigge and Altobelli under control. Rummenigge had two good chances, in the 35th and in the 90th minutes but was off target on each occasion. Altobelli also missed a good opportunity shortly before the end of the first half.

The decisive goal came after Schroeder handled in the area. In the last 10 minutes the Germans launched a series of desperate attacks which broke down in a series of frustrating melees

● Brussels (AFP) – Five Belgian internationals have admitted accepting secret tax-free payments during the 1982 World Cup in Spain or the European Championship in France in June this year, investigators revealed yesterday.

Wilfried van Moer, Eric Gerets, Maurice Deschrijver, Francois van der Elst and Theo Custers reportedly concealed some of their bonus payments from tax authorities.

Harford latest and dearest in Luton spree

Mick Harford has completed his £250,000 transfer from Birmingham City to Luton Town and hopes to make his debut for them in their first division game at Leicester tomorrow. A decision on his fitness will be taken today.

Luton, struggling to avoid relegation, have now spent £400,000 on players in the past fortnight, having already bought the defender, Steve Foster, and the midfielder, David Preece.

Birmingham immediately invested £50,000 in the Coventry midfielder Nicky Platnauer. He spent 18 months with Coventry, having joined them from Bristol Rovers, but lost his place in their side early in October.

Birmingham confirmed yesterday that talks had broken down in their attempt to gain an extension of Tony Morley's loan from West Bromwich Albion.

Triple-headed spearhead of Beckenbauer

Valetta (Reuter) – Franz Beckenbauer has listed three forwards in West Germany's team to play Malta in a World Cup qualifying game on Sunday. The manager, who once declared that it was no longer possible to use more than two forwards in top-class soccer, said he would risk playing Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Rudi Voeller and Klaus Allofs together in an attempt to score goals.

West Germany have scored only once in two previous visits to Malta for European Championship games, winning 1-0 in 1974 and dropping a point in a goalless draw five years later.

Lower prices

West Ham United are reducing seat prices for the third round FA Cup visit of Port Vale on January 5 by a maximum of £1.50.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Second round, second leg: Celtic 0, Rapid Vienna 1 (at Old Trafford, agg: 1-4).
UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg: Bohemians Prague 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1 (agg: 1-3); Dundee United 2, Manchester United 3 (agg: 4-5); Real Madrid 6, Anderlecht 1 (agg: 6-4); Cologne 2, Spartak Moscow 0 (agg: 2-1); Zeljeznicar Sarajevo 4, Universitatea Craiova 0 (agg: 4-2); Inter Milan 1, Hamburg 0 (agg: 2-2, Inter Milan win on away goals); Dynamo Minsk 0, Widzew Lodz 1 (agg: 2-1); Partizan Belgrade 2, Videoton 0 (agg: 2-5).
MILK CUP: Fourth round, second replay: Queen's Park Rangers 4, Southampton 0 (QPR away to Ipswich).
FA CUP: Second round replay: Hereford United 2, Plymouth Argyle 0 (Hereford at home to Arsenal).
UNIVERSITY MATCH Oxford 2, Cambridge 4 (at Wembley).
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Norwich 0, Portsmouth 0; Oxford United 0, Ipswich 2.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 1, Aston Villa 0; Liverpool 1, Newcastle 1. Second division: Hull City 8, Oldham 1; Leicester City 0, Doncaster Rovers 0; Scunthorpe United 2, Leeds United 0; Sunderland 0, Grimsby 1: Wolverhampton 2, Bolton 6; York City 2, Port Vale 2.
HERTS SENIOR CUP: Watford 8, Cheshunt 0.
LONDON SENIOR CUP: Third qualifying round: Crown and Manor 2, Ford 1 (at Epping FC).
SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: Third round: Bognor Regis 4, Worthing 1.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Second division north: Flackwell Heath 1, Kingsbury 0. Second division south: Newbury 0, Egham 2
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham 3, Fareham 0; RS Southampton 1, Fisher Athletic 0; Shepshed Charterhouse 3 AP Leamington 1. Southern division: Dunstable 0, Hillingdon 0.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Wimbledon 2, Arsenal 0.
EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Stowmarket 0, Harwich 1. Postponed: Bury v Felixstowe; Soham v March.
RUGBY UNION: Tour match: Pontypool 18, Australians 24 Club matches: Swansea 30, Pontypridd 7, Bedford 30, RAF 9; Abertillery 20, Cheltenham 16.

Barnet forced to sell in order to survive

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Barnet are having to cut back on their coaching staff and sell players in order to survive. The Gola League club were forced to part company this week with Ron Howells, their coach, and Chris Hewitt, their physiotherapist, and several of their best players are on the move.

Gary Phillips, the goalkeeper, has been sold to Brentford for £5,000 and a fee of £3,000 has been agreed with Enfield for John Docker, a midfield player. Nicky Evans, a forward, turned down a £4,000 move to Nuneaton Borough, but Ian Fergusson, another midfield player, seems certain to go, although Barnet recently rejected a £10,000 offer for him from a first division club. The first team squad is already down to 15 and Barnet will not be signing any replacements.

Barry Fry, Barnet's manager, said yesterday: "We owe substantial sums to the Inland Revenue and a number of other people. The transfer fees are being used immediately to pay off debts and reduce our overdraft. The board haven't specifically told me to sell players, because they know I'll do whatever is necessary for us to survive."

Most of Barnet's problems have been caused by the seven months' closure of their clubhouse bar earlier this year because of legal dispute with a brewery. "We had to make a substantial out of court settlement and have been in trouble ever since." Fry said. "But if we can survive the next couple of months long term prospects are good. The bar is now making money, our gates are up this season and were also doing well on the commercial side."

● Kevin Verity, the Football Association's regional coach in the West Midlands, has been appointed manager of the English semi-professional team in succession to Keith Wright, who is leaving to become secretary of the English Golf Union. Verity, aged 44, who was Wright's assistant, played for Halifax Town and a number of non-league clubs.

● John Cooke, the manager of Droylsden (North Counties League), has been appointed assistant to Brian Kidd, the new manager of Barrow (Gola League).

● Gainsborough Trinity, the Northern Premier League Club, have dismissed their team coach, Brian Fidler. Andy Lodge, the club captain, has taken over in a caretaker capacity.

● Terry Reardon, the manager of Slough Town, has parted company with them because of poor results. Slough have won only six of their first 20 matches in the Isthmian league premier division this season. Reardon has been succeeded by Howard Kennedy, who joined the club earlier this season as player-coach.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Second division
Middlesbrough v Shrewsbury Town (7.30)

Third division
Doncaster Rovers v Wigan Athletic (7.30)

Fourth division
Stockport County v Chester City (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: World Doubles (at Derngate Centre, Northampton, 2.0)
EQUESTRIANISM: Olympic International (1.30 and 7.0).

SHOW JUMPING

Deslauriers and Aramis take a long stride towards greatness

By Jenny MacArthur

The international show jumping championship which opened last night at Olympia gives the British public their first chance to watch the Canadian Mario Deslauriers on Aramis, one of the most exciting partnerships to emerge in show jumping during the last year.

The pair were catapulted into the limelight when they won the final of the Volvo World Cup in Gothenburg, in April. They went on to confirm that this was no fluke by finishing fourth in the individual competition in the Olympic Games. At 19 Deslauriers is the second youngest competitor at Olympia, the youngest being Gillian Greenwood, aged 18, the European junior champion.



Deslauriers: first visit

Deslauriers, who comes from Bromont where his father Roger is the manager of the Olympic equestrian centre, admits that he has been fortunate in his horse. The most striking feature about Aramis, a seven-year-old Hanoverian, is his size – he is more than 17 hands high and looks as if he could step over most of the fences in the arena.

Deslauriers, who is competing in England for the first time, said yesterday: "He may have a problem with the courses over here, because they are designed for horses with shorter strides.

Aramis was bought in a German auction three years ago and taken to Canada where Mr Deslauriers spotted him and got together a syndicate of ten businessmen and women who paid £30,000 for him. In July this year, just before the Olympics, they turned down an offer of $750,000 (£625,000).

He has looked forward to competing at Olympia both for its Christmas atmosphere and also for the chance it affords to compete against ten nations at one time. "In Canada there are usually just us and the United States", he said.

As the holder of the World Cup title he automatically qualifies for the final this year in April. This however will not lessen his will to win in tomorrow afternoon's qualifying rounds. Indeed, he enters every class in the same spirit.

Gillian Greenwood, whose previous visit to Olympia have been as groom to her father, John, has a different attitude. Qualified to compete only in the afternoon classes she admits that she is here "for the experience" and does not expect to be in the winning frame. She will be competing against such riders as Harvey Smith, Malcolm Pyrah and David Broome, all of whom are more than double her age.

● Gillian Greenwood yesterday received the Vivien Batchelor Trophy for the best young rider of the year awarded by the British Equestrian Writers' Association.

SQUASH RACKETS

From bridesmaid to bride in 20 minutes

By Colin McQuillan

Martine Le Moignan, the tall blonde left hander who has so often been the bridesmaid of British squash, last night broke through to snatch the national championship away from Alison Cumings, the 1982 champion, winning 9-1, 9-2, 9-0 in just 20 minutes. It was the second fastest final in the competition, leaving championship organizers amazed and scrambling to find the male finalists, Geoff Williams and Bryan Beeson, well ahead of schedule. Only Sue Cogswell has been faster in the national final, beating Teresa Lawes in 13 minutes in 1977.

Squash, like any other competitive game, is about winning. But in modern professional sport there are more ways of exploiting a tournament than by merely skimming the cream. Lucy Soutter, aged 17, the pocket dynamo from Gloucester, lost a fascinating five-game semi-final on Wednesday to Miss Le Moignan. By yesterday morning Miss Soutter was said to be in deep discussion with a leading sporting goods company about promotion contracts.

Nicky Spurgeon, the British under-23 champion, lost the other women's semi-final to Miss Cummins but went on to win later bouquets from many impressed by her sociable demeanour after losing the finals place for which she was seeded. Miss Spurgeon already had a healthy promotions contract but she left Abbeydale with many more friends than she arrived with.

The veteran international, Ian Robinson, stole the early round headlines on his favourite courts, unexpectedly tipping out the young seed, Danny Lee, then happily made way for the publicity aroused by his Armley club colleague, Beeson, on the way to becoming the first unseeded men's finalist.

Mousa Helal celebrated his 35th birthday and British naturalization by beating Martin Bodimeade, possibly even for a Cap in the forthcoming home international.

BOXING

Magri back in world title bout

Charlie Magri has a chance to regain the WBC flyweight title. Only the formalities remain to be completed after a meeting yesterday between Magri's manager, Terry Lawless, and the promoter, Frank Warren, who announced earlier this week that he had come to an agreement with reigning champion, Sot Chitalada of Thailand, to bring his title to London for a sum on excess of £80,000. The bout is scheduled for the Alexandra Pavilion on February 20.

It will be the first voluntary business deal involving Warren and one of Lawless's fighters. The only condition to be fulfilled before Magri signs is that Warren must produce the champion's signature on the contract within 21 days.

Lawless said yesterday he had told Mike Barrett, with whom he has a contractual arrangement, that Magri would fight Chitalada for whichever promoter came up first with the champion's agreement. Warren already has this, according to his statement at the beginning of the week.

The size of the offer which Magri has accepted is not being disclosed, although Warren has already said that it will be more than Magri earned for his first world title fight (£25,000) in March 1983, when he took the crown from Eliencio Mercedes. He lost the title six months later



Magri: bigger purse

CRICKET

Opening the way for more English-qualified players

Minor Counties sides will not be allowed to include players not qualified for England in either the United Friendly Insurance championship or the English Estates Trophy from the beginning of the 1986 season, it was decided at the Minor Counties Cricket Association (MCCA) annual meeting at Lord's yesterday.

In 1985, the sides will be able to include one overseas player still and there will be no restrictions on registrations. But from 1986 it will be very different as the Minor counties do their bit to try to improve matters at the top level.

The first-class counties put further restrictions on overseas signings when they met at Lord's on Tuesday.

In making the announcement George August, chairman of the MCCA said: "The decision has been taken in the overall interests of English cricket. We want to open the way for additional English qualified cricketers to develop their skills and progress to the first-class game. Minor counties cricket has been the training ground for first-class cricketers and we want to build on this tradition."

In 1984 the leading players in the United Friendly Insurance championship both came from Pakistan. The top batsman was Mudassar Nazar with an average of over 91: the leading bowler Pardez Mir with 59 wickets at 12.68. Mir also scored over 500 runs.

Mr August expained that overseas cricketers are normally signed on a one-season contract and paid on a match basis and it was considered essential to give players and counties adequate notice of the change.

Test report, page 29

IN BRIEF

Thorne lodges complaint about table

Cliff Thorburn and Willie Thorne scrambled an unconvincing 5-3 victory over Kirk Stevens and John Virgo in Northampton yesterday to proceed into the semi-finals of the £150,000 Hofmeister World Doubles snooker Championship.

Thorne, in particular, was far from pleased with the quality of the table on which the match was played, and laid a lot of the blame for some disappointing play on the green baize. "Never before have I felt the need to make an official complaint about the state of a table on which I have had to play a major tournament match," he said. "But I certainly have this time."

TENNIS: Johan Kriek beat Scott Davis, of the United States, in straight sets yesterday to gain a place in next month's Grand Prix Masters tournament in New York. Kriek, who won 6-1, 6-4, needed to reach only the quarter-finals of the New South Wales Open to be sure of entering.

RUGBY UNION: Several members of the Lancashire county schools committee may walk out in support of Ray French during next month's committee meeting, according to John Dewhurst, of Rossall School, Fleetwood, secretary of the committee. French has been banned, with no written confirmation or explanation, from taking his seat

RUGBY LEAGUE

Platt in tears as he misses Under-21 game

By Keith Macklin

One of the quickest appeals committees on record assembled hastily at Leeds yesterday to consider the two-match suspension imposed minutes earlier on the young St Helens forward, Andy Platt. It was quickly put together because of Sunday's Under-21 international in France, but decided to reduce the disciplinary committee's ban from two matches to one, so Platt will still miss the international game.

Platt was found guilty of biting despite a letter clearing him from the Bradford Northern forward, Alan Rathbone, the other player involved in the incident.

A dejected Platt left the hearing in tears. His place will now be taken by Dannatt, the Hull forward.

● The British Amateur Rugby League Association has criticized exclusion of amateur clubs from the sport's major cup competition this season. The Rugby League Council decided last week not to invite amateur teams to compete in the Challenge Cup.

A statement from BARLA said the decision had been received with "great disappointment and disillusionment not only by the officials, but by rugby league enthusiasts throughout the game".

RACKETS

Former world champion gets drubbing

By William Stephens

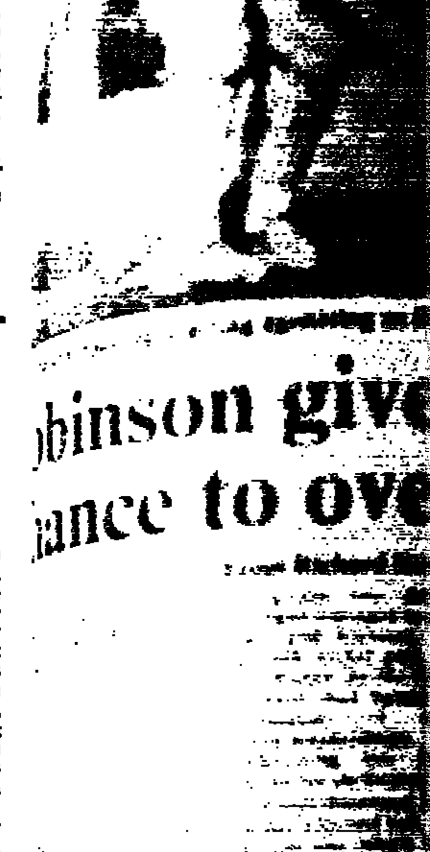
William Boone put John Prenn, his predecessor as world champion, in the firing line at Queen's Club, London, on Wednesday and administered a ruthless drubbing. Boone swept through the Celestion Invitation singles final by 15-2, 15-4, 15-1, leaving Prenn shell-shocked by the unrelenting battery.

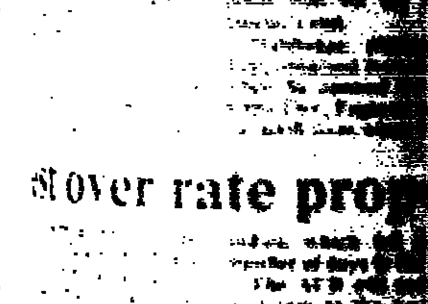
Boone set out as if he still had something to prove: his attitude was "Take no prisoners". His fierce forcing rocked Prenn who returned high loose balls which Boone despatched with venomous kills, severely cut, often into the side nick.

Boone's footwork defies the disciplines of solid ball games. He struck the ball savagely, leaning back with chest on to the front wall and still maintained precise control. His supposedly flawed backhand inflicted blistering low kills even when hitting across the line, and his court geometry was masterly, particularly his fine-angled low cross-court smashes diagonally from one corner to the other.

SQUASH RACKETS

MUSCAT: Grand Prix tournament: Semi-finals: Jahangir Khan (Pak) bt Qamar Zaman (Pak) 9–4, 9–2, 9–4; R Norman (NZ) bt C Dittmar (Aus) 10–8, 9–5, 9–0.





FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Basketball Association (NBA): Philadelphia 76ers 110, Boston Celtics 107; New Jersey Nets 116, Milwaukee Bucks 109; Detroit Pistons 102, Chicago Bulls 95; San Antonio Spurs 126, Denver Nuggets 105; Dallas Mavericks 115, Kansas City Kings 107; Atlantic Hawks 116, Cleveland Cavaliers 99; Los Angeles Lakers 131, Golden State Warriors 107.
KORAC CUP: Ghent 93, Cibona Ferraci 84; Olimpia Simac Milan 106, Fenerbahce 88.

ICE SKATING

COLORADO SPRINGS: World junior championships: Results after men's short programme: 1, V Petrenko (USSR), 1.0pts; 2, D Weiss (WG), 2.2; 3, E Larson (US), 3.8. British placing: 13, C Wildridge, 12.2. Results after women's figures: 1, J Sjodin (US), 0.6; 2, S Becher (WG), 1.2; 3, T Ernst (US), 1.8. British placing: 16, S Knott, 9.6. Final pairs results: 1, Gordeeva and Grinkov (USSR), 1.4; 2, Mironenko and Shkidchenko (USSR), 2.8; 3, Gud and Koltun (USSR), 4.2. British placing: 7, Cushley and Cushley, 8. Ice Dancing after original set patterns: 1, Klykanova and Platov (USSR), 1.0; 2, Liapina and Sur (USSR), 2.4; 3, Bontemps and Paliard (France), 2.8.

RUGBY FIVES

AMATEUR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: G W Enstone bt I P Fuller 15-6, 15-4, A R Wynn bt D J Hebden 15-12, 15-7. Final: Enstone beat Wynn 15-7, 15-5.

FOOTBALL

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Challenge round: Bath 4, Kent 0.
EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN CUP: Semi-finals: Malawi 2, Uganda 0; Zambia 2, Kenya.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Millwall 2, Birmingham 0; Fulham 5, Brighton 0.
ASIAN CUP: Semi-final: Saudia Arabia 1, Iran 1 (aet; Saudia Arabia won 5-4 on penalties).

TENNIS

SYDNEY: New South Wales Men's Tournament: Third round: J Kriek (US), 6-1, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; W Scanlon (US), bt T Cain (US), 7-6 4-6, 6-4; J Fitzgerald (Aus) bt H Pfister (US), 6-4, 7-5; B Testerman (US) bt W Masur (Aus), 3-6, 6-33, 6-4; M Davis (US) bt K Flach (US), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; T Gullikson (US) bt P Doohan (Aus), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; S Giammalva (US) bt B Drewett (Aus), 6-2, 6-4.

TOKYO: Pan Pacific women's tournament: Second round: C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) bt C Benjamin (US) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; L Bonder (US) bt P Huber (Austria) 7-5, 5-7, 6-4; H Sukova (CZ) bt E Smylie (AUS) 7-6, 6-1, 6-2; M Maleeva (BUL) bt T Phelps (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

SKIING

TEGNES: Free-style World Cup: Ballet (men): 1, L Spina (US), 26.8; British positions: 14, R Wallace, 22.6; 32, M Nemesvary, 20.9. Women: 1, C Rossi (Fr) 28.2; British position: 16, J Snell, 16.1. Moguls (men): 1, P Bron (Fr); British positions: 26, M Nemesvary; ms, S Baynes. Women: 1, C Frarier (Fr); British position: ms: J Curry. Aerials (men): 1, Y Laroche (Can); British positions: 5, M Nemesvary; 13, M Wheeley; 14, R Wallace. Men's combined: 1, Y Laroche (Can); British position: 6, M Nemesvary.

TRENTO: World Cup cross-country: 1, B Pettersen (NOR), 15min 47.50 sec; 2, A Ordina, (USSR) 15:49.40; 3, L Vasincenco (USSR) 15:52.90; 4, J Stepanova (USSR) 15:52.90; 5, L Zinjatova (USSR) 15:56.40; 6, G Nijdsalmo (NOR) 15:58.90.
World Cup Positions: 1, B Pettersen (NOR) 26 pts; 2, A Ordina (USSR) 22; 3, L Vasincenco (USSR) 19; 4, J Stepanova (USSR) 17; 5, L Zinnjatova (USSR) 16; 6, G Nijdsalmo (NOR) 15.

SNOOKER

NORTHAMPTON: World doubles championship: Quarter-finals: C Thorburn (Can) and W Thorne bt K Stevens (Can) and J Virgo 5-3

GOLF

HILL SAMUEL SCHOOLS' FOURSOMES: (Home teams first): Preliminary round: Kimbolton 2, Wellingborough 1; St Edward's, Oxford 0, Radley 3. First round: King Henry VIII, Coventry 2, King Edward's, Birmingham 1; St Alban's 1, Haberdashers' 2; Loughborough GS 0, Uppingham 3; Kimbolton 3, Ratcliffe 0; King's Canterbury 3, St Lawrence 0; Epsom 0, Tonbridge 3; Lancing 3, Charterhouse 0; Solihull 2, Rugby 1; Bradfield 2, Stowe 1; Wellington 1, Eton 2.

CAPE TOWN: South African Masters: 2nd round leaders: (South Africa unless stated): 134: Tony Johnstone. 136: I Mosey (GB); S Hobday; P Miata. 139: M Johnson (GB); W Humphreys (GB); Chris Moody (GB); N Faldo (GB); F Allen. 140: D Watson; G Player. 141: J Bland; M McNulty; N Burch (GB); F Edmonds.

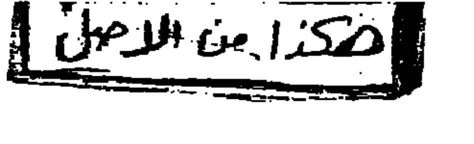
TAIPEI: Taipan PGA championship: Leading first-round scores: (Taiwanese unless stated): 68: Hsu Sheng-San; 69: A Ohmach (Ja), Chen Tze-Ming, Lai Chung-Hui, Lu Chien-Soon; 70: John Benda (US), T Kanatoni (Jap), Y Yamamoto (Jap).

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: Grand Prix finals: Womens: group one: H Troke (Eng) bt D Kjaer (Den) 11-0, 11-0. Group two: K Larsen (Den) bt K Beckman (Eng) 11-2, 11-8. Han Aiping (china) bt I Lie (Indo) 11-7, 11-0. Mens: group one: N Yates (Eng) bt S Pamungkas (Ind) 15-1, 15-13. Group four: H Arbi (Ind) bt M Kjeldsen (Den) 18-13, 15-10.

ICE HOCKEY

UNITED STATES: National Hockey League (NHL): Pittsburgh Penguins 4, New York Islanders 2; Boston Bruins 3, New York Rangers 3; Toronto Maple Leafs 6, Philadelphia Flyers 3; OT-Hartford Whalers 2, Buffalo Sabres 2; Chicago Black Hawks 5, Detroit Red Wings 1; Washington Capitals 3, Minnesota North Stars 2; Calgary Flames 8, Winnipeg Jets 2.



CRICKET



Indians rejoicing, Gatting agonising as the ball spins back on to his wicket

Robinson gives England a chance to overtake India

From Richard Streeton, Delhi

England lost the wickets of Fowler and Gatting cheaply in the second Test here yesterday as they started their reply to India's first innings of 307. After tea, though, an obstinate third wicket stand between Robinson and Lamb developed and left the game delicately poised as the players took the rest day today. England were 107 for two wickets by the close after Robinson, with an unbeaten 53, enhanced his growing reputation.

There has still been no hint of unreliability in the pitch's behaviour, though its possible deterioration will haunt England in the next 48 hours. Having their opponents reeling at 140 for six, England might well rue their inability to bring India's innings to a more rapid end.

Robinson has batted through 46 overs with a confidence and maturity which has visibly improved almost innings by innings. Long before the end he was making room to score against Yadav and if Sivaramakrishnan, the leg spinner, was treated respectfully, the Nottinghamshire opening batsman did not seem to have problems against him. Lamb, concentrating after his run of low scores, pulled a loose ball early on from Sivaramakrishnan for four, but otherwise got his head down.

India's innings was prolonged until half an hour after lunch and by then a further 99 runs had been added to their overnight 203 for six wickets. Not often in Test cricket does it happen that a team's last four wickets more than double the score, but India now did it for the second Test match in succession. Every member of this Indian side, though, has a first class century to his name.

Sivaramakrishnan quickly forced Ellison, who had bowled well, to strengthen his offside field placings. He and Yadav added 49, only two runs short of the Indian tenth wicket record against England. The morning period of play and afterwards must have been galling for England, who knew that every run conceded could come home to roost in the later stages.

Kirmani, Yuadav, early in his stay, and Prabhakar, all rode their luck a little, but England also failed to accept two definite chances England managed to get rid of Kapil Dev and Kirmani, the overnight seventh wicket pair, quite quickly. But Yadav, by the time the innings finished, had batted 105 minutes, Prabhakar 75 minutes and Sivearamakrishnan 70 minutes, underlining low effectively the Indian tail performed.

Ellison dismissed Kapil Dev with the day's second ball, an outswinger, like the one which had accounted for Gavaskar first thing on Wednesday morning. Ellison bowled with accuracy and intelligence for an hour and threequarters, interrupted only by a change of ends. Cowans had a slight throat infection, or he might have played a more significant role. Prabhakar was fortunate with a snicked four against Ellison which just escaped Downton's hands above his head before the same bowler claimed Kirmani's wicket.

Kirmani, who had been in 2¼ hours pushed forward at a ball which left him a little and Gatting took a good catch at first slip as he tumbled to his right. Ellison took his third successive wicket – his figures yesterday were 11-2-26-3 – immediately after he changed ends. He went round the wicket, started with a no ball and then next ball had Prabhakar caught behind driving, the batsman walking before the umpire needed to go into action.

Cowans returned without success and Yadav and Sivaramakrishnan were unperturbed as they played a series of maiden overs against him and Edmonds. Pocock came back for the final over before lunch and from his first ball, Yadav, on 11, and the score 274, was dropped by Cowdrey at forward short leg. The last wicket pair drove and pulled a spate of fours against the spinners after the interval.

The stand ended a little luckily for England when Yadav square drove Edmonds and Sivaramakrishnan eagerly set off for a run. He was sent back but was unable to beat Robinson's throw from deep back point that hit the stumps at the bowler's end.

Prabhakar, playing in his first Test, obtained movement both ways when he opened the bowling with Kapil Dev. England were only 15 in the sixth over when Fowler tried to drive a widish ball and Gaekead at second slip picked up a low catch near his left ankle.

Gatting showed all the expected confidence of a man who has scored three hundreds in his last four innings, and was soon punching the ball away. But his dismissal was wretched.

From the penultimate ball before tea he pushed forward defensively against Yadev and stunned the ball, which, however, spun into the stumps and gently dislodged the off bail. Gatting tried to stop the ball with his right foot but he was off balance. At least two Indian fieldsmen commiserated with him as the players went off for the interval, confirmation that this series is being played with commendable friendliness, as well as competitive spirit.

Gower sent Lamb in next and Yadav tormented him with five close fieldsmen, but apart from one hard clip which went perilously near forward short leg, he was in control. Robinson reached his first Test fifty with a pushed single against Shastri to extra cover, out of 99 in the 42nd over. By the close he had batted 2¼ hours without a blemish, and England, with eight wickets left, were exactly 200 runs behind.

INDIA: First Innings	
*S M Gavaskar c Downton b Ellison	1
A D Gaekwad b Pocock	28
D B Vengsarkar st Downton b Edmonds	24
M B Amarnath c Gower b Pocock	42
S M Patil c Pocock b Edmonds	30
R J Shastri c Fowler b Pocock	2
Kapil Dev c Downton b Ellison	60
†S M H Kirmani c Gatting b Ellison	27
M Prabhakar c Downton b Ellison	25
S N Yadav not out	28
L Sivaramakrishnan run out	25
Extras (b 1, l-b 12, n-b 2)	15
Total	307

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-56, 3-68, 4-128, 5-131, 6-140, 7-208, 8-235, 9-258.

BOWLING: Cowans 20-5-70-0, Ellison 26-6-66-4, Edmonds 44.2-16-83-2, Pocock 33-8-70-3, Gatting 2-0-5-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings	
G Fowler c Gaekwad b Prabhakar	5
R T Robinson not out	53
M W Gatting b Yadav	26
A J Lamb not out	12
Extras (b 4, l-b 6, n-b 1)	11
Total (2 wkts)	107

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-60.

*D I Gower, C S Cowdrey, †P R Downton, P H Edmonds, R M Ellison, P I Pocock, N G Cowans to bat.

BOWLING: Dev 10-2-20-0, Prabhakar 8-2-24-1, Sivaramakrishnan 10-6-19-0, Yadav 12-2-34-1, Shastri 5-5-6-0.

Test over rate proposal

Adelaide, Australia (AFP) – The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) are to press for a minimum number of overs in a day's play for all Test matches when officials of Test playing nations meet in Australia for the "world championship" next year.

Fred Bennett, the ACB chairman, said yesterday: "We hope to host a meeting of those people to endeavour to reach agreement with them concerning over rates in Test matches.

"We will be submitting a very strong case that in all Test matches we have a minimum daily over rate of at least 90 overs."

The Australian's concern has been fuelled by the low over rate in their current Test series with West Indies, which fell below 80 on a number of days in the Adelaide Test.

The ACB will seek an improved over rate in the next two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney, Bennett said.

● SYDNEY (Reuter) – Kim Hughes was "dressed down like a dog" from the captaincy of Australia, according to the former Australian Test captain, Bill Lawry yesterday. Hughes quit as the captain last month after winning only four of 28 Test matches in charge.

"The demise of Kim Hughes in Brisbane in a manner that was equal to being dragged down like a dog in the pack and devoured by your own, within and without, is a disgrace," Lawry said.

Final chance for New Zealand

Karachi (Reuter) – with Abdul Qadir, the spin bowler, and Mudassar Nazar, the opening batsman, almost certainly out of action for Pakistan, New Zealand have their best chance of victory in the series so far when play in the third and final Test match resumes here today. Qadir has a swollen instep and Mudassar a neck injury.

Trailing by 12 runs in the first innings, with six wickets in hand, New Zealand will be looking for a lead of at least 100.

Scores: Pakistan 328 (Anil Dalpat 52, Wasim Raja 51, Saleem Malik 50; D A Stirling 4 for 88, S L Boock 4 for 83). New Zealand 316 for 4 wkts (J G Wright 107, J F Reid 97).

HOCKEY: THE CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Authorities failing to live up to British success

A spectator with special interest in the Champions Trophy tournament in Colin Whalley, the England team manager. He is watching the performances of English players and will report back to the Hockey Association concerning prospective candidates for the 1986 World Cup team.

Britain, having finished among the first four here are almost certain to be invited by the International Hockey Federation for the next Champions Trophy at Perth, Australia, in November 1985. However, since an England team are due to tour Australia for about three weeks in June and July of the same year, administrative zeal will again be divided between preparing the England team for the World Cup and keeping the British team afloat for Champions Trophy, which, at present, is Britain's only route towards Olympic selection.

After Perth, the Champions Trophy will revert to Lahore in April 1986, where again the British team could be invited. The tournament then rolls on to Amsterdam in 1987. The British team ought to be in Amsterdam as results there will be crucial in selecting teams for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

After their tactical failure against Pakistan on Wednesday, the British team yesterday watched a video replay match between the Netherlands and Spain, which the Dutch won 4-0. They have shown strength in attack and defence which Britain will have to counter.

When the teams last met, in their group match in the Olympics, Britain won 4-3. Much will depend today on whether Kerly, who has already scored three goals, can recapture the brilliance he showed against the Dutch in Los Angeles.

Cattell has been striking his short corners well, but the drill will have to be a little smarter than it was against Pakistan. There has also to be a tightening in defence which has conceded ten goals in four matches. The Netherlands need only to draw: Britain have to win.

Later in the day, Pakistan will play Australia, the holders, for the gold medal. Since 1963 the teams have met 34 times, Pakistan having won 19 matches and Australia 10, with five matches drawn. Their last meeting was on the Olympic semi-final when Pakistan won 1-0 and went on to win the gold medal. In the only match played yesterday, New Zealand recovered after being 1-3 down to draw 3-3 with Spain and take fifth place.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pakistan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Netherlands	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Great Britain	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New Zealand	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spain	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

England all out to improve indoor standard

By Joyce Whitehead

Tomorrow and on Sunday the Home Countries' Indoor tournament will be held at Meadowbank, Edinburgh – yet another international tournament in Scotland this season. Last year, England came out on top, beating Scotland, Ireland and Wales, scoring 30 goals against 9.

But when they came up against the continental indoor teams their results were not so good, so the players have made an all-out effort this season to raise their standard of play. They have arranged matches, even at their own expense, against men's teams in addition to the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA) training sessions. The England indoor squad contains four new caps: Cheetham, Morrey, Slocombe and Swainton.

Then on Sunday, starting at 9 am on the I M Marsh campus of Liverpool Polytechnic, is the three-day tournament of Physical Education Colleges in the British Isles. Ulster, unfortunately, withdrew.

This is an annual event staged by each college in turn but quite how long it will go is a question of expense. In order to finance this tournament the fee for each player is £30 and that does not cover the overall cost, so Liverpool, as the hosts have been fund raising.

ENGLAND SQUAD: K Dodd (capt, Middlesex); K Brown (Hertfordshire); J Cheetham (Lancashire); M Edwards (Kent); D Griffiths (Lancashire); S Howe (Essex); P Parker (Leicestershire); M Slocombe (Cambridgeshire); P Morrey (Yorkshire); S Slocombe (Somerset); S Swainton (Yorkshire).

George dropped

London Welsh have dropped their scrum half, Ian George, and brought in Robin Pritchard for Saturday's London Merit Table game at London Irish. Robert Ackerman, who is playing for the Barbarians against the Wallabies, is replaced in the centre by Guy Leleu.

RACING: MELROSE HANDICAP WINNER TO REGISTER FIRST SUCCESS OVER HURDLES

Hollinshead colt can help to end gloomy spell for O'Neill

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Out Of The Gloom should prove a singularly well-named winner of the Saucy Kit Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster this afternoon. A winning ride on Reg Hollinshead's three-year-old would be a welcome shot in the arm for John O'Neill, who has no reason to remember this season with affection so far, having first dislocated his hip at Chepstow in October and then broken an arm at Wetherby four weeks later.

A decent horse on the flat – he won the Melrose Handicap at York's Ebor meeting in August – Out Of The Gloom made a pleasing debut under National Hunt rules when he finished third to Jamesmead at Ascot last month.

Being such an out-an-out stayer on the Flat, he should relish today's distance of 2½ miles and he is preferred to the recent Wetherby winner, Nohalmdun, Quiet Fall and John Francome's mount, Wassem.

Francome's long journey north from Lambourn should not go unrewarded, however, as he appears to have an excellent chance of winning the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle on Rhythmic Pastimes, especially now that Peter Easterby has decided to run Comedy Fair instead of the much-improved Jobroke.

Far Bridge, who has defeated Little Bay twice over two miles at Sandown this season, invariably gives the impression that he would be even more effective when racing over 2½ miles – the distance of today's Red Alligator Handicap Chase.

He is preferred to Jimmy Fitzgerald's 10-year-old Direct Line, who tends to spoil his chance with sloppy jumping. If Direct Line does let the side down again, his trainer and jockey should waste no time finding consolation with Zamandra, who is napped to win the Merryman Novices' Chase.

Zamandra might well have beaten Jockambel at Wetherby had she not made a mistake at the last fence. My nap was tired at the time and she should strip fitter this time as that was only her second race after an absence of 2½ years.

At Warwick, Peter Scudamore should be on the mark with Connaught River, who can outclass his opponents in the first division of the Shirley Novices' Hurdle. He may also win the Upton Handicap Hurdle for his father, Michael, on An-go-look, who got to within a length of the useful Morning Line at Hereford.

Another father and son combination, John and Anthony Webber, can win the Stoneleigh Handicap Chase with Nickle Moppet.

After winning his first race of this season at Towcester, my selection was far from disgraced at Warwick when he was beaten a length by Ardent Spy.

McCain eyes National again after Kumbi's clear victory

Donald McCain, who sent out Red Rum for a record-breaking three wins and two seconds in the Grand National, has Aintree in mind for Kumbi, an easy winner of the Burnley Handicap Chase at Haydock Park yesterday.

McCain was bubbling with enthusiasm after Kumbi had taken over from Cottage Rythm at the final fence of the 3½ miles to win by seven lengths.

McCain said: "I was running him previously over 2½ miles when the horse was crying out for three. He'll now run in the Welsh National at Chepstow on Saturday week, have a good rest, and I'll bring him back in the spring for Grand National preperation, with a race here and then at Ludlow."

Ladbrokes make Kumbi 16-1 for the Welsh National and 25-1 for Aintree. McCain, who has backed his horse at 50-1 for the latter, said: "My horse was going very well at Aintree last March but lost Kevin Doolan at the nineteenth fence."

Doolan, who joined McCain last December on the recommendation of John O'Neill, rode a well judged race yesterday and again has the mount at Chepstow where the nine-year-old is set to carry 9st 6lb with no penalty for yesterday's win.

O'Neill made his comeback half an hour earlier than expected in the Widnes Selling Hurdle. The former champion, out of action with a broken arm since Wetherby on November 2, had expected to resume in the last race but picked up a spare ride on Martin Pipe's Harlow Mill. There was no happy return for O'Neill however, because Harlow Mill was in last place when pulled up.



Donald McCain: has another National prospect in Kumbi

The five-length winner was Randomly, an ex-Irish gelding having his first race in this country for David Morrill, whose Rachel's Delight was the subject of a bookmakers' inquiry after being backed from 14-1 to 4-1 and winning at Wolverhampton on November 7.

Bookmakers took no chances this time and the first price chalked up was 3-1 with Randomly finishing 2-1 favourite. Connections had to go to 6,000 guineas to buy their winner in.

Morrill said: "I have 14 horses and that's my third winner this season. They've all won first time out. Randomly ran second in a hurdle race in Ireland and is not a bad little sort. He stays well, and could improve enough to go for a long-distance novice hurdle."

Craig Thornton, aged 18, had his first win in this country on his second ride when bringing Cool Magic four lengths clear in the Birkdale Novices' Chase. But it was a lucky win as Cool Magic was only third when the leader, Inkling, and second, Golden Knoll, fell at the final fence.

Thornton, who has ridden nine winers in New Zealand, is the son of an Auckland farmer and is riding here until March, mainly for David Barons and Stan Mellor.

Kevinsfort, who landed the odds in Southwell's Christmas Tree Handicap Chase with Mark Dwyer looking round, is rated "a great jumper and a strong horse" by his trainer, Jimmy Fitzgerald, who is already thinking in terms of Liverpool's Whitbread Trophy, formerly the Topham. In the meantime, Kevinsfort has a choice of engagements at Christmas.

Aintree stand damaged by fire

An investigation team yesterday sifted through the wreckage of the historic County Stand at Aintree for clues of the fire which broke out late on Wednesday night.

The full extent of the damage became apparent at first light. The ground floor reception area of the 100-year-old building was badly burnt along about a third of the 500ft length of the stand. However, next year's Grand National is not in doubt.

The first floor of the timber-framed building suffered major water damage as 40 firemen battled for more than two hours to stop the blaze spreading. High winds whipped up the flames.

The fire also penetrated the roof of the stand, leaving gaping holes. Much of the decor of the building, including a roll of honour of Grand National winners, was charred. John Parrett, the racecourse general manger, said: "The whole of the County Stand will have to be redecorated but we are confident the work will be completed by the Grand National meeting.

The cause of the fire, which seems to have started in the Lawn Bar on the ground floor, is still a mystery. Merseyside police have been called in to the investigation but the forensic team are expected to take some time to establish whether it was started deliberately.

Officials at the scene could find no trace of a forced entry to the building. Workmen had been on site for the previous two days making preparations forr next year's Grand National. The stand was due to be demolished and rebuilt after next year's meeting.

DONCASTER

GOING: good to firm.

Tote: double 1.45, 2.45; treble 1.15, 2.15, 3.15.

12.45 LOTTERY SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£664: 2m 150yd) (3 runners)

5 042/a44 JESTER'S NIGHT (Mrs J Corn) R Peacock 11-11-7 ... P Tuck
6 60049-6 NERO WOLF (J Hardy) O Brennan 7-11-5 ... M Brennan
9 000p/3 SPORTSMAN HACONBY (R Thompson) R Thompson 9-10-10 ... D Chinn 7
1983: Very Friendly 6-10-0 T Wall (20-1) P Bevan 8 ran.

4-6 Nero Wolf, 5-2 Sportsman Haconby, 7-2 Jester's Night.

FORM: JESTER'S NIGHT (11-5) 17¼l, 4th of 5 finishers to Smiling Cavalier (10-10) at Uttoxeter (2m conditional ch, £1,258, good to soft, Dec 6). NERO WOLF (11-0) 36l, 5th of 12 to The Welder (11-7) at Nottingham (2m nov ch, £1,116, good to firm, Dec 3). SPORTSMAN HACONBY (10-0) 3l, last of 3 finishers to Viny Ridge (10-0) at Sedgfield (2m sell h'cap ch, £398, soft, Nov 6).
Selection: NERO WOLF.

Doncaster selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Nero Wolf. 1.15 Out Of The Gloom. 1.45 Far Bridge. 2.15 Rhythmic Pastimes. 2.45 ZAMANDRA (nap). 3.15 Davidstown.

By Michael Seely

1.15 Out Of The Gloom. 2.15 RHYTHMIC PASTIMES (nap).

1.15 SAUCY KIT NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,839: 2m 4f) (12)

3 1 NOHALMDUN (Ulceby Farms Ltd) M H Easterby 10-12 ... D Dutton
4 13 QUIET FALL (BF) (G Turnbull) M Camacho 10-12 ... R O'Leary
6 0 CHEERFUL DAYS (C Gould) A Scott 10-7 ... Mr T Reed 4
8 0 LOVE WALKED IN (Whiting Commodities) W Holden 10-7 ... R Linley
10 3 OUT OF THE GLOOM (D Lowe) R Hollinshead 10-7 ... J J O'Neill
11 00 PERSHING (J Rowles) J Leigh 10-7 ... P Blackburn 7
12 0 PHAROAH'S TREASURE (A Bingley) C A Bell 10-7 ... J H Davies
13 003 SAVOIR VIVRE (T Wilson) M W Easterby 10-7 ... P Tuck
15 0 TABERNA LORD (D Moorhead) D Moorhead 10-7 ... C Grant
16 0022 WASSEM (Southchase Ltd) J Jenkins 10-7 ... J Francome
20 30 QUALITAIR PRINCESS (Qualitair) K Stone 10-2 ... A Stringer
21 0 TELECONGOLD (N Bycroft) N Bycroft 10-2 ... P A Charlton
1983: Jennie Pat 10-5 D Coakley (14-1) G Richards 19 ran.

6-4 Out Of The Gloom, 3 Wassem, 5 Nohalmdun, 6 Quite Fall, 10 Pharoah's Treasure, 12 Savoir Vivre, 14 Qualitair Princess, 16 others.

FORM: NOHALMDUN (10-7) beat Miss Goldingay (10-2) ½l at Wetherby (2m hdle, £548, good, Dec 3, 21 ran), with SAVOIR VIVRE (10-7) 8l away 3rd. QUIET FALL (11-2) 28½l, 3rd of 14 to Worling-Pearl (10-5) at Uttoxeter (2m 4f hdle, £543, good to soft, Dec 6). OUT OF THE GLOOM (11-1) 10l, 3rd of 14 to Jamesmead (11-1) at Ascot (2m hdle, £3,511, good to soft, Nov 17). WASSEM (10-10) 1½l, 2nd of 14 to Opening Bars (10-10) at Plumpton (2m hdle, £548, soft, Nov 26).
Selection: OUT OF THE GLOOM.

1.45 RED ALLIGATOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,007: 2m 4f) (8)

1 24210-0 DON'T FORGET (D) (J Hanson) J Hanson 10-11-10 ... K Whyte
2 321-141 FAR BRIDGE (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 8-11-7 (7 ex) ... B Reilly
3 301112- GOOD CRACK (D) (J Hanson) J Hanson 7-11-4 ... C Pimlott
4 02142-5 DIRECT LINE (D)(BF) (B Otter) J FitzGerald 10-11-4 ... R O'Leary
5 0012p1 STAND BACK (D) (W Crawford) W A Stephenson 7-10-3 (4 ex) ... Mr P J Dun 4
7 01032f ARTIMARVAL (R Beeson) J Blundell 11-10-0 ... D Dutton
9 p-431up SEA SPLASH (D) (J Hardy) O Brennan 8-10-0 ... M Brennan
11 21/p-3f1 PRESS GANG (D) (A Duncan) J S Wilson 9-10-0 (4 ex) ... A Stringer
1983: W Six Times 6-11-11 R Earnshaw (6-4 fav) M W Dickinson 5 ran.

3 Direct Line, 7-2 Far Bridge, 9-2 Don't Forget, 6 Stand Back, 7 Good Crack, 8 Press Gang, Artimarval, 14 Sea Splash.

FORM: DON'T FORGET (11-7) 17½l, 5th of 6 to Tudor Folly (10-8) at Wetherby (2m 4f ch, £3,033, good, Dec 8). FAR BRIDGE (10-0) beat Little Bay (11-7) a neck at Sandown (2m ch, £6,937, good to soft) Dec 1, 4 ran). GOOD CRACK (12-1) ½l, 2nd of 5 to Father Delaney (11-3) at Wetherby (2m 4f ch, £2,426, good, May 28). STAND BACK (11-0) beat Aldro (11-2) 1½l at Uttoxeter (2m 4f ch, £2,022, good to soft, Dec 6, 6 ran). ARTIMARVAL (10-5) head, 2nd of 5 to Percipient (10-0) at Market Rasen (2m ch, £1,789, heavy, Nov 24). PRESS GANG (11-7) beat Somerled (10-0) 20l at Hexham (2m ch, £937, heavy, Dec 5, 5 ran).
Selection: FAR BRIDGE.

2.15 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,582: 2m 150yd) (11)

2 110-012 RHYTHMIC PASTIMES (D) (P Byrne) J Jenkins 4-11-9 ... J Francome
4 1/14131- ARISTO TREAT (A Theodorou) M Lambert 5-10-13 ... P A Charlton
6 0000-01 ISHKOMANN (Mrs J Warren) J Spearing 5-10-12 ... R Linley
7 121p4-0 AMANTISS (J Hanson) J Hanson 6-10-8 ... C Pimlott
8 1321-43 TURI (CD) (A Smith) A Smith 5-10-7 ... C Grant
9 0-34010 COMEDY FAIR (Mrs M Nowell) M H Easterby 4-10-4 (6 ex) ... A Brown
11 0000f0- EMANDAR (H Ryder) H Wharton 5-10-1 ... P Tuck
12 0/001-00 CYPRUS SKY (F Jackson) W Clay 7-10-1 ... S J O'Neill
13 10 STEEL VENTURE (A Maycock) M Ryan 5-10-0 ... J McLaughlin
15 1221-04 SWEET COLLEEN (G Graham) M W Easterby 4-10-0 ... A Dickman
17 10-0400 TOMMY GUNNER (J Elvin) H Fleming 4-10-0 ... D Oldham
1983: Patrick's Fair 7-10-8 C Seward (12-1) D H Jones 12 ran.

5-2 Rhythmic Pastimes, 4 Comedy Fair, 5 Turi, 6 Ishkomann, Sweet Colleen, 7 Aristo Treat, 12 Steel Venture, 16 Amantiss, 20 others.

FORM: RHYTHMIC PASTIMES, (11-8) 20L runner-up to Northern Trail (10-13) at Leicester (2m hdle, £2868, soft, Nov 19, 6 ran). ARISTO TREAT, (11-7) beat Sandwalker (10-0) by 1½l at Wolverhampton (2m 4f hdle, £1203, good, Dec 26 1983, 18 ran). ISHKOMANN, (10-4) beat Marshall Key (11-12) by 2½l at Worcester (2m hdle, £3585, soft, Nov 21, 10 ran). TURI, (10-8) 11 3rd to Jobroke (10-8) at Wetherby, last season (10-10) beat Dawn River (11-10) by 12l at Wetherby, AMANTISS (11-10) 4½l away 4th (2m hdle, £549, good, May 28, 10 ran). COMEDY FAIR (10-8) 14l 6th to Triple Jump (10-7) on Wednesday at Haydock (2m 4f, hdle, £1937, good, 14 ran).
Selection: RHYTHMIC PASTIMES

2.45 MERRYMAN II NOVICE CHASE (£1,328: 3m 122yd) (9)

1 1p0300 CALDWELL CASE (B) (R Swiers) R Swiers 9-11-1 ... Mr M Sowersby 7
4 00-0123 WELFARE (T Metcalfe) G Richards 6-11-1 ... J K Kinane
5 0-c2120 ANTIGUAN MOON (R Beeson) J Blundell 6-10-10 ... D Dutton
8 0303-00 BLAKE (M Bray-Cotton) W Clay 7-10-10 ... S J O'Neill
10 0p-4p0 KERAGE (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 6-10-10 ... S Keightley
14 p3 POLOKI (Mrs G Fairbairn) G Fairbairn 7-10-10 ... T G Dun
15 140f-r4 PRIDE O'FIFE (I Hughes) J Edwards 6-10-10 ... P Barton
19 00ff0p/ COSMIC OCCASION (M Reid) M Reid 9-10-5 ... P Carvill
21 42 ZAMANDRA (L Wild) J FitzGerald 9-10-5 ... M Dwyer
1983: Bally-Go 6-10-10 P Tuck (7-1) M W Easterby 6 ran.

2 Zamandra, 5-2 Welfare, 4 Antiguan Moon, 7 Pride O'Fife, 12 Poloki, 14 Blake, 16 Caldwell Case, 20 others.

FORM: WELFARE, (10-0) 8l 3rd to Blue Reef (11-12) at Catterick (3m 1f ch, £1638, good to soft, Nov 24, 9 ran). BLAKE, making chasing debut, Last Year (11-7) 7½l 3rd to Rosa Ruler (10-0) at Worcester (2m 4f Hdle, £2544, Hard, Apr 25, 5 ran). POLOKI, (11-0) distance 3rd to Shiney Son (11-0) at Hexham (2m ch, £969, heavy, Dec 5, 7 ran). PRIDE O'FIFE, (10-10) 21l 4th to Big Brown Bear (11-4) at Wolverhampton (3m ch, £1713, good, Nov 26, 18 ran). ZAMANDRA, (10-9) blundered at final fence when 7l 2nd to Jockambel (11-6) at Wetherby (3m ch, £1666, soft, Nov 27, 18 ran).
Selection: ZAMANDRA

3.15 DOORNOCKER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HURDLE (£548: 3m 122yd) (8)

4 0p DAVIDSTOWN (R Brinkworth) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 ... J Hurst 5
5 032/0- EDGED GOLD (Mrs J Wigham) P Wigham 7-10-12 ... –
13 000-12 TWELTER (J Walby) W A Stephenson 5-10-12 ... J O'Gorman 5
14 03-003 WHITLEY BURN (A Simmons) A Smith 5-10-12 ... S Turner 5
15 p000-00 CONWAY GROVE (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 4-10-9 ... S Mitchell 5
16 03 EVEN DEEPER (R Beeson) J Blundell 4-10-9 ... A Quinn 5
18 20-2214 RIGTON SALLY (Mrs I Wilford) H Wharton 4-10-9 ... P Corrigan
21 0000-0p PROUD OUTLOOK (Mrs C Whiteway) P Brookshaw 4-10-4 ... J D Davies
1983: Isaac Newton 5-10-12 A Webber (15-8 fav) R Armytage 21 ran.

9-4 Rigton Sally, 3 Davidstown, 7-2 Even Deeper, 4 Twelter, 7 Whitley Burn, 16 Edged Gold, 20 others.

FORM: DAVIDSTOWN, pulled up behind Church Warden at Cheltenham, previously (11-0) 25½l 6th of 16 to Mount Bolus (10-13) at Kempton (2m 4f hdle, £197, good, Oct 20). TWELTER (11-5) 6l 2nd of 12 to Roman Dusk (11-12) at Hexham (2m 4f hdle, £620, heavy, Dec 5), with WHITLEY BURN (11-3) 12l away 3rd. EVEN DEEPER (11-6) 9l 3rd of 7 to Dover (11-5) at Market Rasen (2m hdle, £1288, soft, Nov 24). RIGRON SALLY (11-5) about 17l 4th of 15 to Calira (11-5) at Newcastle (2m 4f hdle, £1134, soft, Nov 15).
Selection: DAVIDSTOWN

WARWICK

GOING: soft

12.30 SHIRLEY NOVICE CHASE (Div I: £1,225: 2m) (13 runners)

6 3302-22 CONNAUGHT RIVER (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ... P Scudamore
7 4000/a4 DUTCH CHALLENGER (A Hollingsworth) A Hollingsworth 7-11-4 ... Mr A Denson
10 0003-00 FOUNTAIN VALLEY (J Brook) Miss A L King 5-11-4 ... J Suthern
12 000p-fp FUNKY ANGEL (J Frost) Mrs E Harden 8-11-4 ... Philip Hobbs
14 00-2243 JOHNS PRESENT (J Sinnott) R Holder 8-11-4 ... P Richards
16 30f-0 MAGIC MOUSE (M Stephenson) J Colston 8-11-4 ... G Charles-Jones 4
20 0042/pp ROGAIRIO (M Popham) P Bailey 8-11-4 ... S Morshead
21 p ROSY GLEAM (H Manners) H Manners 7-11-4 ... Mr S Bush 7
22 0f222p- ROUGH WIND (C Loggin) C Loggin 8-11-4 ... J A Harris
23 20p22-0 SAYS EYE (P Harris) D Wintle 9-11-4 ... N Babbage 4
29 314-2 WYFORD (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 7-11-4 ... H Davies
31 030-33u FLYING MISTRESS (T Bell) J Webber 6-10-13 ... G Mernagh
33 0b01-p0 HARBOUR BAZAAR (C Hague) M Chapman 4-10-7 ... P Liddle 7

9-4 Connaught River, 11-4 Wyford, 4 Johns Present, 7 Flying Mistress, 10 Rosy Gleam, 14 Dutch Challenger, 16 others.

Warwick selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Connaught River. 1.0 Karnatak. 1.30 Chummy's Boy. 2.0 Nickle Moppett. 2.30 Roadster. 3.0 My Aisling. 3.30 An-Go-Look.
Michael Seely's selection: 3.30 An-Go-Look.

1.0 HAMPTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £555: 2m) (25)

1 34110 STEAMY (CD) (J Moreton) D Murray Smith 11-3 ... R Dunwoody
2 0 AQUARIUS SPIRIT (Mrs W Fine) W Musson 10-10 ... C Smith
3 BAMIAT (V Castledine) S Cole 10-10 ... V McKevitt
4 BIG INJUN (C Mottram) B Preece 10-10 ... R Stronge
7 CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS (C Wright) D Laing 10-10 ... K Mooney
11 8 DISCOVER GOLD (P Wheatley) M Blanshard 10-10 ... C Brown
12 DONALD DAVIES (Mrs N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 10-10 ... Miss G Armytage 7
16 0 HADDAK (C Lakin) B Palling 10-10 ... C Evans 7
17 HIERONYMOUS (W Gredley) M Pipe 10-10 ... P Leach
19 04 INVISIBLE RING (Mrs D Dening) R Holder 10-10 ... P Richards
20 KARAMOUN (M Hair) D Ancil 10-10 ... G McCourt
21 222222 KARNATAK (B) (Mes P Joynes) J Spearing 10-10 ... S Smith-Eccles
22 0 KEYBOARD KING (Nionisle Ltd) D Wilson 10-10 ... Steve Knight
24 MR KEY (Mrs E McManus) P Haynes 10-10 ... R Rowe
25 OBLIGED (C Watts) S May 10-10 ... S May
27 0 REVENGED (D Tucker) D Tucker 10-10 ... S McNeill
28 SAM PETE (Hargreaves Vending) K Cunningham-Brown 10-10 ... S Moore
29 SULTAN ZAMAN (B Hamoud) G Huffer 10-10 ... J Barlow
30 THE MOOCHE (W Crabtree) D Elsworth 10-10 ... R Arnott 7
31 02 WOODWAY (K Bell) D Wintle 10-10 ... R Hyett
35 EMILY DE POMME (Mrs J Chadwick) R Armytage 10-5 ... A Webber
36 MADAME DE COOMBE (R Ward) W G Turner 10-5 ... A Sharpe
42 SUMMERHILL GOLD (Summerhill Stud) Miss A Sinclair 10-5 ... P Croucher 4
43 WHAT A POPSI (V Morley Lawson) M Haynes 10-5 ... A Wright 7
44 WOLVER PLUME (B Taylor) Peter Taylor 10-5 ... P Barton

3 Steamy, 9-2 Karnatak, 5 Invisible Ring, 6 The Mooche, 7 Woodway, 10 Keyboard King, 12 Hieronymous, Mr Key, 16 others.

1.30 YOUNGSTERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (£479: 2m) (17)

1 00040- CHUMMY'S BOY (A Williams) D Burchell 4-11-3 ... B Burchell
8 p0-0004 IN A DREAM (B) (G Ratcliff) Mrs A Ratcliff 4-10-12 ... –
9 p04 PAT ON THE BACK (G Blum) G Blum 4-10-12 ... G Charles-Jones
10 p0-0 ROBERTS GIRL (R Hodges) R Hodges 4-10-12 ... S Earle
12 03020-2 SOLITAIRE (BF) (B Hicks) B Hicks 4-10-12 ... N Coleman
13 p41 RIX WOODCOCK (CD) (Mrs T Davis) G Kindersley 3-10-10 ... P Croucher
14 00 BROCHE (C Redgrave) K Bishop 3-10-5 ... S Mackey
16 f03 HAVE YOU TIME (W Wharton) W Wharton 3-10-5 ... N Fearn
18 p KIDSWOOD (Mrs D Caplan) H O'Neill 3-10-5 ... K Caplan
19 p MARK KELLY (N Thomas) R Simpson 3-10-5 ... J Duggan
21 0p0 APRON BLUE (B) (E McGuiness) M O'Halloran 3-10-0 ... –
25 pf MY DITTY (Mrs A Upsdell) D Wedden 3-10-0 ... K Townsend
26 0 REMAINDER GIRL (A Pitt) R Griffiths 3-10-0 ... M Caswell
27 2 SEDGE (S Squires) C Holmes 3-10-0 ... K Burke
28 0 SOCHER (H Richardson) A Ingham 3-10-0 ... A Wright
31 02 TENDER LOVE (BF) (Mrs L Ingham) 3-10-0 ... R Arnott
32 f0 VALIANT DANCER (B Taylor) Peter Taylor 3-10-0 ... R Lawson

3 Rix Woodcock, 7-2 Sedge, 5 Solitaire, 6 Tender Love, 8 Chummys Boy, 10 Pat On The Back, 12 Have You Time, Mark Kelly, 16 others.

2.0 STONELEIGH HANDICAP CHASE (£1,410: 3m) (10)

1 30-0020 FRED PILLINER (D) (N Johnson) M Scudamore 7-11-10 ... M Williams
2 23b020- WEST TIP (D) (P Luff) M Oliver 7-11-6 ... R Dunwoody
3 113-232 CROSA (S Jones) J Fox 9-11-3 ... S Moore
5 6pf-014 PORT ASKAIG (D) (BF) (Ld Chelsea) T Forster 8-10-12 ... H Davies
6 1013-12 NICKLE MOPPETT (P Dresher) J Webber 7-10-11 ... A Webber
9 240p0-0 JACKO (D) (R Alden & Son Ltd) D Nicholson 12-10-10 ... P Scudamore
10 40p2-11 RUN AND SKIP (J Chamberlain) J Spearing 6-10-10 (7 ex) ... P Warner
14 12203p- WOODLANDS LAD (P Pritchard) P Pritchard 8-10-4 ... P Dever
16 130-p23 DICKLIS (B) (M Barraclough) M Barraclough 6-10-0 ... R Stronge
18 8fp-4pf FINE LINE (B) (C Dodson) J Wright 7-10-0 ... M Williams

5-2 Nickle Moppet, 3 Run And Skip, 4 Crosa, 11-2 Port Askaig, 7 Dicklis, 10 Fred Pillinar, 14 others.

2.30 SHIRLEY NOVICE CHASE (Div II: £1,217: 2m) (12)

5 0 CANDY PARK (Mrs A Parkinson) N Gaselee 5-11-4 ... V McKevitt
8 0-00 EASTER NIGHT (M Wiles) T Forster 8-11-4 ... H Davies
15 0000-00 LITTLE ROCK (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ... P Scudamore
17 10f200- MOLON LAVE (J Morse) J Morse 7-11-4 ... J Suthern
19 0/22f4- ROADSTER (C Nash) C Nash 8-11-4 ... A Webber
24 002p4-p SCALE THE HEIGHTS (S Rushgrove) P Duggins 5-11-4 ... N Coleman 4
25 400/104 SOVEREIGN ISLAND (T Colbourne) Mrs A Finch 5-11-4 ... M Harrington
27 VENETIAN WARRIOR (D Takle) M Pipe 8-11-4 ... R Dennis 4
28 013004 VITINGO (Mrs M Burnside) C Holmes 5-11-4 ... K Burke 7
30 02-3 FLAXEN TINA (Mrs S Gee) J Webber 6-10-13 ... G Mernagh
34 00-0000 NUDGE NUDGE (A Birchall) S Mellor 4-10-7 ... M Perrett
35 300-320 TOUGH CUSTOMER (Chingford Organ Studios) H Westbrook 4-10-7 ... S Smith-Eccles

5-2 Roadster, 3 Flaxen Tina, 6 Nudge Nudge, 8 Molon Lave, 10 Sovereign Island, Tough Customer, 12 Little Rock, Vitingo, 16 others.

3.0 HAMPTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £597: 2m) (25)

2 u0 ARCHIE'S NEPHEW (R Barber) J Thorne 10-10 ... P Dever
3 ASTON BANK (R Wright) D Tucker 10-10 ... S McNeill
4 40 CARO WOOD (M Jaynes) M J Haynes 10-10 ... H Davies
5 CLASSIC OWEN (Mrs N Pride) R Atkins 10-10 ... R Atkins
6 CONNAUGHT PRINCE (K Fischer) D Nicholson 10-10 ... P Scudamore
7 040 CORRAGARY (D Robinson) D Elsworth 10-10 ... R Arnott 7
8 CORRIS MASTER (J Hayes) J S King 10-10 ... S Smith-Eccles
9 00 CROWFOOT'S COUTURE (D Crowfoot Ltd) B McMahon 10-10 ... –
11 f FULL OF SPEED (E Hayward) H O'Neill 10-10 ... M Hammond
12 GASTRONOMIC (W Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 10-10 ... Miss G Armytage 7
14 4 LUCIETES (F Jordan) F Jordan 10-10 ... R Hyett
15 8 MALAKAMO (L Ames Ltd) A Turnell 10-10 ... Steve Knight
18 MR GREGORY (A Leiper) G Balding 10-10 ... J Burke
20 NICE ONE ANDY (J Thung) G Huffer 10-10 ... R Dunwoody
24 ROYAL CHARGE (D Wellcome) D Wellcome 10-10 ... M Bastard
25 4 SHIELDAIG (W Dobson) P Cundell 10-10 ... A Gorman
26 30 THA (A Cope) D Weeden 10-10 ... –
28 WINTERS PLEASURE (Mrs M Olsson) J Bethell 10-10 ... A Webber
33 0 KABUTI (H Ellis) O O'Neill 10-5 ... J Suthern
34 KILTTALEY (J Neville) R Holder 10-5 ... A Webb
35 32 MONSOON (H Singh) Peter Taylor 10-5 ... P Barton
36 403 MY AISLING (B) (S Harvey) M Pipe 10-5 ... P Leach
37 8 RELKISHA (J Pegley) D Wintle 10-5 ... A Carroll
39 RUSSOLA (R McLoughlin) S Mellor 10-5 ... M Perrett
42 TITILLO (A Steven) D Ancil 10-5 ... G McCourt

11-4 Tha, 3 My Aisling, 5 Shieldaig, 13-2 Mr Gregory, 8 Caro Wood, 10 Archie's Nephew, 12 Monsoon, 16 others.

3.30 UPTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,461: 2m) (24).

2 4212-00 JAYESS (D) (Mrs D Sutton) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-7 ... –
4 004013 SWEETCAL (D) (G Sumner) P Cundell 7-11-5 ... Michael Rimmer 7
5 010-024 GOING BROKE (BF) (J O'Neill) D Murray-Smith 4-11-5 ... A Webber
6 3111- LORD CHANTICLEAR (P Williamson) M Pipe 4-11-4 ... P Leach
9 02/1- WEARMOUTH (D) (Mrs M Wilson) Mrs T Pilkington 8-11-1 ... Mr A J Wilson
11 00-2400 BROCKLEY BELLE (D) (C Spares) C Spares 5-10-11 ... –
12 000p-33 LE LEVADOR (D) (D Hill) Mrs R Lomax 5-10-9 ... A Carroll
14 040-400 APPLANTE (D) (B) (R Armytage) R Armytage 8-10-9 ... Miss G Armytage 7
15 100001- RUSERCOLA (Mrs J Fraser) M Scudamore 7-10-8 ... M Williams
16 0000/00 MAJESTIC BAY (B) (Mrs R Dickinson) M Dickinson 10-10-6 ... J A Harris
18 b000-02 AN-GO-LOOK (D) (Mrs M Barker) M Scudamore 6-10-6 ... P Scudamore
19 30-0100 WINART (Mrs V Taylor) R Hodges 6-10-6 ... S Earle 7
21 000-31p QUALITAIR PRINCE (D) (Qualitair) M Ryan 5-10-5 ... R Campbell 4
23 3310-03 PIP (D) (F Starr) B Stevens 4-10-5 ... C Brown
24 000-p BISHOP'S BLAIZE (Mrs E Ellis) P Cundell 5-10-5 ... R Rowe
25 30/14f- BOLD ILLUSION (D) (H Thursfield) M Eckley 6-10-4 ... W Morris 4
26 0320-0u CANTABILE (D) (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 5-10-1 ... R Hyett
27 13-0440 SHOUT (K Kane) J Spearing 4-10-1 ... A ebb
29 00p22- CHALET WALDEGG (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 4-10-0 ... M Harrington
32 300fpp- DERWENT KING (D) (R Croft) Mrs J Croft 7-10-0 ... R Dickin
33 AVGERINOS (M Farrell) J Smith 10-10-0 ... N Fearn 7
34 000ar10- BOBBING STAR (D) (J De Standuin) B McMahon 8-10-0 ... –
35 340442- PRINCE'S DRIVE (CD) (B Manning) B Palling 6-10-0 ... C Evans 7
39 fr/pp-pr BIDDABLE (H Thelwall-Jones) R Hodges 5-10-0 ... Peter Hobbs

3 An-Go-Look, 4 Going Broke, 5 Lord Chanticleer, 7 Pip, 8 Sweetcal, 10 Jayess, Le Levador, 12 Wearmouth, Brockley Belle, 14 others.

Haydock results

going: Good

1.00 (2m hdle) 1, CHIPPED METAL (R Crank 15-8 jt fav); 2, Open The Box (B Reilly 20-1); 3, Gilded Chief (T Wall 15-2). ALSO RAN: 15-8 jt fav The Liquidator (f), 8 Crisp And Keen (5th), 12 Maggies Girl (4th), 16 Valiant Wood, 20 Misha (6th) Prince Sweet, Targogan's Best, 33 Brock Mill, Merchant Fruiterer, Miss Krugerrand. 13 ran. 3l, 3l, 4l, 1l. R B Francis at Malpas. TOTE: £22.40; £1.20, £4.00, £1.40; DF: £45.90; CSF £40.74.

1.30 (3m ch) 1, COOL MAGIC (C Thornton 10-1); 2, Kings's Brig (D Coakley 12-1); 3, Hill Green (R Crank 25-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Inkling (f), 9-4 Jockambel (p.u), 5-2 Golden Knoll (f), NR: Von Trappe 4l, 12l. F Justin at Wigton. TOTE: £9.30; £2.40, £2.10. DF: £15.60. CSF: £89.06.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, TOT (D Thompson 6-1); 2, Lor Moss (C Cox 11-4 fav); 3, Star Alliance (J Duggan 16-1); ALSO RAN: 4 Shaw Brow (5th), 5 Prince Reviewer (4th), 11-2 Rapid Lad (6th), 11 Spotsylvania, 16 Eyton Streaker, 33 Barton Cross, Golden Leicester, Sponsored Walk, 11 ran. 1l, 5l, 1½l, 2l, 10l. Denys Smith at Bishop Auckland. TOTE: £5.10; £1.60, £2.80, £2.00. DF: £13.30. CSF: £22.28. Tricast: £227.69.

2.30 (3m 4f ch) 1, KUMBI (K Doolan, 2-1 fav); 2, Caston (D Wilkinson 20-1); 3, Cottage Rhythm (J D Doyle 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Kudos (5th), 13-2 Winning Brief (P.U.), 12 Narvik (P.U.), 14 Jimmy Miff (4th). 7 ran. NR Bashful Lad. 7l, ½l, 1½l dist. D. McCain at Southport. Tote £2.70; £2.20, £5.10. DF: £31.20. CSF. £31.26.

3.00 (2m 6f hdle) 1, RANDOMLY (J Duggan 2-1 fav); 2, Russian Salad (R Hyett 11-4); 3, Bombil (J Bryan 20-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Oudesa (P.U), 7, Helshaw Grange, Not Easy (6th), 8 Captain Oates, 10 Harlow Mill (P.U.), 14 Leawell (5th), 20 Cynical Sam (4th), 33 Bounteous Spirit (P.U.), Broxted Boy, M Chow, Sawyer's Son. 11 ran. 5l, 6l, 7l, 3l, 5l. D. Morrill at Wragby. Tote: £5.20; £2.50, £2.80, £8.30; DF: £16.60 CSF. £9.54. Winner bought in for 6,000 guineas.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, LIFE GUARD (J Frost 3-1); 2, Miramec (N Doughty 11-2); 3, Nicky's Knight (P Delaney 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Coopers King (4th), 10 Orville's Song, Blackwell Boy, 14 Mohar, 16 Atkinsons, Burgundy Star (6th), 20 Balmatt, Mister Kilo, River Lune (5th), Warleggan, Dolly Cole (f), Harvey's Choice, Icacos Bay (f). 16 ran. NR: Mpeapea. 6l, 7, 2l, ¾l, 10l. S Harris at Amersham. Tote: £5.10. £2.10, £3.20, £1.20. DF: £13.30. CSF: £22.50. Tote Double: £11.20. Treble: £35.50 (Paid first 2 legs). Placepot: £272.80.

Southwell

12.45 (3m 110yds ch) 1, COVENT GARDEN (S O'Neill 11-4 fav); 2, Bay Forest (S McNeill 33-1); 3, Seven Acres (N Babbage 8-1); ALSO RAN: 3 Cricket Wood (pu), 7 Abo Ace (pu), 10 Wooburgh (ur), 12 First Award (f), Mighty Run (ur), 20 Lakefield (pu), 25 Gold pee (4th) 33 Kingsley House (f), Red David (f), Excluder (f), Devil's Reach (pu). 14 ran dist 15l, 1l, W Clay at Uttoxeter. Tote: £3.20, £1.50, £11.60, £2.20, DF: £68.50. CSF: £84.63.

1.15 (2m hdle) 1, HELEN'S CHOICE (J A Harris 13-8 fav); 2, Queensbury Liz (A Carrol 7-1); 3, Downtown Foxy (S McNeill 12-1); ALSO RAN: 7 Highview (5th), 8 Raffles Tower (pu), 10 Tatty Too (6th), 12 Torski (4th) 16 Shiny Chador, 20 Just Spud, Bright Cecilia, Decki's Pride (f) Jacks Folly, NR: Sadge. 12 ran. 20l 1l, 3l head, 7l. A Smith at Beverley. Tote £2.30, £1.10, £2.00, £3.60; FD: £5.90; CSF: £13.07. Winner bought in for 1,50 guineas.

1.45 (2m 74yd ch) 1, KEVINSFORT (M Dwyer 8-13 fav); 2, Even Melody (P Tuck 20-1); 3, Little Trouble (R Kingston 14-1); ALSO RAN: 5 Grannie's Pet (4th), 20 Hilly Way (5th), Abbey Avenue (6th) 25 Dear Remus, Tom Farr, Vale Challenge, 66 Ridarrage. 10 ran. 8l, 6l, 15l, 8l, 3l. J FitzGerald at Malton. TOTE: £1.70; £1.10, £1.70, £2.40. DF. £13.20. CSF: £12.69. Tricast: £84.00.

2.15 (2m hdle): 1, TRACK RYTHM (M Jenkins, 12-1); 2, Conscription (P Blackburn, 9-1); 3, Oryx Minor (G Charles-Jones, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Sir Blessed, 5-2 Teenage Love, 5 Maskwood (5th), 20 Wolverbee (6th), 33 Archimboldo, Brown Sands (p.u.), Mr Rose (p.u.), Stay Sharp (s.u.), 50 Lucky Choice, Gun Carriage, (4th), Transonic, Will Be Wanton (p.u.). 15 ran. Sht hd, 2l, 2l, neck, 4l. J Webber at Banbury. TOTE: £17.40; £3.50, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £206.00 CSF: £110.99.

2.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1, BALLYGROOBY (Dai Williams, 15-2); 2, Sir Gordon (P Scudamore, 7-4 fav); 3, Brown Lustre (A Webber, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Royal Classic (f), 6 Abervanter (4th), 50 Cambro Boy (f). 6 ran. 10l, dist, 1l. R Parkins at Burton-on-Trent. TOTE: £12.20; £6.60, £1.10. DF: £6.80. CSF: £20.16.

3.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, POLISH (A Webb, 33-1); 2, The Irish Rhine (Steve Knight, 11-2); 3, Feels Right (P Scudamore, 16-1); 4, Kasland (R Rowell, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Crammond Brig, 5 Hopeful Shot (5th), 6 Kilsyth (6th), 13-2 Princess Henham, 10 Padykin, 14 Mesa Kid, Glenhawk, 20 Cole Porter, 25 Blue Tarquin, Narainh, Noble Way, 33 Le Gran Brun, Miss Golden Eyes, Malicious Red. 18 ran. 1l, neck, neck, head, ½l. J Spearing at Alcester. TOTE: £21.60; £4.90, £2.00, £3.10, £6.70. DF: (winner or second with any other) £1.90. CSF: £208.84. TRICAST: £2,799.20. PLACEPOT: £57.00.

Course specialists

DONCASTER

TRAINERS: M W Easterby 5 wins from 23 runners, 21.7%; M H Easterby 12 from 70, 17.1%; G Richards 4 from 27, 14.8%.
JOCKEYS: A Brown 7 winners from 35 rides, 20.0%; J J O'Neill 9 from 50, 18.0%; K Whyte 3 from 17, 17.6%.

WARWICK

TRAINERS: R Armytage 12 wins from 52 runners, 23.0%; J Webber 11 from 73, 15.1%, T Forster 10 from 71, 14.1%.
JOCKEYS: H Davies 20 winners from 84 rides, 23.8%; K Mooney 9 from 51, 17.6%; S Morshead 8 from 54, 14.8%.

● John Francome will be back on Burrough Hill Lad when the Gold Cup winner goes for the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day. Jenny Pitman said: "John has confirmed that he will be available at Kempton so he has the ride."

Brian Taylor funeral

The Funeral of Brian Taylor will be at All Saints' Church, Newmarket, on Wednesday (1pm).

Law Report December 14 1984 Court of Appeal

Attorney cannot be sued over threatened Berlin nuisance

Trawnik and Another v Lennox and Another

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson and Sir David Cairns

[Judgment delivered December 13]

Residents of the British sector of Berlin could not sue the Attorney General in relation to an anticipated nuisance from the use by British troops of a firing range near their houses.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the Attorney General from an order of Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor (*The Times*, April 19; [1984] 2 All ER 791) joining him as a defendant to an action by the plaintiffs, Gunter Trawnik and Luise Reimelt, for a declaration, *inter alia*, that it was not lawful to use Gatow Airport so as to cause a nuisance by noise to the plaintiffs.

Mr John Mummery for the Attorney General; Mr John MacDonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the court had to decide whether two residents in the British sector of Berlin, who were not British subjects, could bring against the Attorney General of England, Wales and Northern Ireland a *quia timet* [anticipatory] action in relation to an expected nuisance arising from the construction near their houses of a firing range at Gatow airfield for use by British troops stationed in Berlin.

In so far as he was being sued as representing the Crown, the Attorney General submitted that the proceedings were proceedings in tort and such proceedings could not be brought against the Crown otherwise than under and in accordance with the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 and the proceedings were not so brought.

It was trite law that the Crown could not be sued in tort. If the Attorney General was being sued as the representative of the Crown and the proceedings were in tort, under the common-law rules that claim was bound to fail. In his Lordship's judgment, the proceedings were in tort.

The plaintiffs could not have claimed as against the Crown either damages for, or an injunction to restrain, a nuisance. If they could not claim in respect of a nuisance which had been committed, it would be odd if they could claim for one which some servant of the Crown had threatened to commit.

It made no difference, as was pleaded in the re-amended statement of claim, that the remedy sought was a declaration that the Crown should not itself use or permit others to use land so as to cause a nuisance.

The plaintiffs submitted that they could obtain a declaration that they were entitled, first, to enjoy their land without interference by nuisance originating from land occupied by the Crown and, second, that the Crown could not authorize servants to cause a nuisance on land which it occupied.

In his Lordship's judgment, those forms of declaration were nothing more than ingenious attempts to disguise what the claim was about, namely, that the plaintiffs wanted the court by means of a declaratory judgment to inhibit the Crown by its servants from committing a nuisance. That they could not do at common law in proceedings against the Attorney General as representative of the Crown.

The plaintiffs also submitted that, as a declaration could be made against identified servants of the Crown who were intending to cause a nuisance at Gatow, the making of such a declaration would affect the Crown's use of the land, and that the proper administration of justice required the Attorney General to be made a party to the proceedings so that all parties affected by them were before the court.

It had long been accepted that the Attorney General, as the Crown's representative, could be made a defendant "where the interest of the Crown is threatened" and in *Dyson v Attorney General* ([1911] 1 KB 410) the Court of Appeal adjudged that the Attorney General could be joined as a defendant when the Crown's rights of all kinds were affected.

A declaration against a servant of the Crown in his official capacity, which was the only one in which it could be made, would not, as a matter of law, affect the Crown's rights to occupy and use Gatow airfield. No doubt as a matter of executive action the Crown would heed the terms of such a declaration; but as a matter of law it would not be bound to do so. It followed that the Attorney General could not be joined as a party on the *Dyson* principle.

The Attorney General further submitted that even if the present proceedings could be brought against some officer of state representing the Crown, the Attorney General of England, Wales and Northern Ireland was not the one.

The Attorney General of England, Wales and Northern Ireland could represent the Crown in those parts of her Majesty's dominions, but he had no functions as Attorney General outside them and in particular he had no functions in the British sector of Berlin.

The plaintiffs had been unable to discover from the Treasury Solicitor who in Berlin performed functions similar to those of the Attorney General of England, Wales and Northern Ireland or who, as a matter of law, could represent the Crown in causes of action arising there.

The plaintiffs might be suffering a wrong for which there was no remedy in the courts of this country. That was to be regretted; but sympathy for the plaintiffs was no justification for adding as a defendant an officer of state who as a matter of law had no interest in the proceedings.

The Attorney General should be dismissed from the proceedings.

LORD JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON, concurring in allowing the appeal, said it was clear that there was a desire not to defend the plaintiffs' claim on its merits but to ensure that there was no court which could adjudicate on the claim. There must no doubt be weighty policy considerations which had led the authorities to pursue that unattractive course.

The courts were not concerned with such considerations, but were concerned to see that those who claimed that they had suffered, or were about to suffer, a legal wrong had recourse to some court, somewhere.

The Vice-Chancellor had acceded to the plaintiffs' argument that it was arguable that the provisions of section 2(1) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 enabled the plaintiffs to bring the action against the Attorney General otherwise than under the procedures provided by the Act. On appeal the plaintiffs had in effect conceded that that argument was not sustainable.

The plaintiffs submitted that, although there was no reported case of any action for declaratory relief against the Crown of the kind exemplified by *Dyson's* case being brought where the cause of action, as in the present case, was based on tort, there was no reason why the present action for a declaration should not be brought against the Attorney General. The case was put two ways.

First, it was submitted that a finding that soldiers firing their rifles on the land constituted a nuisance would adversely affect the Crown's interest in that land. But it was impossible to bring the present case within the principle that equity always allowed the Attorney General to be joined as a defendant where the decision in an action might adversely affect the title of the Crown to property which was the subject matter of the action.

Second, the plaintiffs concentrated on the fact that the action was a *quia timet* action, and pointed out that the rule that the Crown was not liable in tort was based on the principle that the Crown could do no wrong. If the action was brought before the wrongful act was done by a Crown servant there was no conflict with that principle.

But, to bring a *quia timet* action it was necessary to show that the threatened act if done would constitute a legal wrong by the defendant. The operation of the shooting range could not be a legal wrong by the Crown since, apart from the 1947 Act provisions, the Crown could not commit a tort.

His Lordship expressed no concluded view on the Attorney General's submission that as Attorney General of England he was not the proper respondent to the proceedings, since his Lordship was not satisfied that it had been demonstrated that the case had been brought against the Crown otherwise than in the right of the Government of the United Kingdom.

It was far from clear how liability for the acts of the British Army (as opposed to the forces of any other part of the Commonwealth) could be said not to arise from the acts of the Crown in respect of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Sir David Cairns agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Seifert Sedley & Co.

County courts can suspend and add on contempt committals

Lee v Walker

Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, Lord Justice Dillon and Sir Denys Buckley

[Judgment delivered December 5]

County courts had power to suspend the operation of committal orders for contempt of court and to impose consecutive committal orders where more than one contempt had been proved.

The Court of Appeal so held, giving its reasons for allowing an appeal by the Official Solicitor on behalf of Mr Peter Walker who had been committed to prison by Worthing County Court under three committal orders, issued on the application of the plaintiff, Tracey Louise Lee.

The first order had been suspended for two months on two conditions; the second amounted to an order that the first be activated immediately for breach of one of the conditions, and by the third the defendant had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment to run consecutively to that imposed under the first two orders.

Section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984 provides: "(1) Every county court, as regards any cause of action for the time being within its jurisdiction (*a*) shall grant such relief, redress or remedy or combination of remedies, either absolute or conditional... as ought to be granted or given in the like cause by the High Court and in as full and ample a manner.

"(2) For the purposes of this section it shall be assumed... that any proceedings which can be commenced in a county court could be commenced in the High Court."

Mr James Munby for the Official Solicitor; Mr Joseph Hamed for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that it had been argued for the Official Solicitor that the county court was an inferior court and as such could have no jurisdiction to commit for contempt except that conferred by statute.

Whatever the validity of that proposition in the past, section 1 of the County Courts (Penalties for Contempt) Act 1983 now provided that a county court was to be treated as a superior court for the purposes of section 14 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which provided for penalties for contempt.

Next, it had been argued that the power of the High Court to suspend contempt sentences was statutory, conferred by Order 52, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and that section 38 of the 1984 Act did not as a matter of construction extend that power to county courts.

The court accepted neither that construction of section 38 nor that Order 52, rule 7 had conferred a new jurisdiction on the High Court. That rule prescribed the procedure for suspending committal orders, the power to do which had never been questioned.

Previously the procedure had been to direct that the committal order lie in the office for a prescribed period and that it was not to issue if the contemnor within that time complied with stated conditions, as Lord Denning had explained in *Morris v Crown Office* ([1970] 2 QB 114, 125); Order 52, rule 7 now prescribed a different procedure for exercising that ancient common law jurisdiction.

In re Lumley ([1894] 2 Ch 271) was not inconsistent with that analysis, the decision there being based on the defective form of the order rather than a supposed want of jurisdiction, and *Head v Head* ([1982] 1 WLR 1186) was not material, concerned as it was with the statutory powers conferred by section 63 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

County courts accordingly did have power to suspend committal orders upon stated conditions.

With regard to consecutive sentences, the Official Solicitor's case had been that neither the High Court nor, *a fortiori*, the county court had any power to impose consecutive prison sentences where the contemnor had been found to have committed separate civil contempts. *Head v Head* had been said to illustrate the general proposition that no court had inherent power to impose consecutive sentences, but that case was not relevant, it being a decision under the 1980 Act.

Before 1827 the court had no power to imprison for felony, because the penalty was death. Only for misdemeanour could prison sentences be passed, and in *Wilkes' case* ([1780] 4 Burr 2527) Chief Justice Wilmot had held that a consecutive sentence was good in law, for otherwise either the defendant would go unpunished for the second offence or the sentence for the second offence would be unduly long, offending the principle that the sentence should be appropriate to the offence.

It had been submitted that *Wilkes' case* applied only where a man had been tried for misdemeanour on indictment or information, but the court's reasoning had been directed throughout not to the form of the proceedings but to the justice of the sentence, and its conclusion that the imposition of consecutive sentences was the only form consistent with justice where more than one offence had been committed.

In *Danchevsky v Danchevsky* (unreported, November 10, 1977) Lord Justice Lawton said that civil contempt of court was a common law misdemeanour, and it had not been argued that that was wrong. In *R v Cuthush* ((1867) LR 2 QB 379, 382) it had been said that right and justice required the availability of consecutive sentences.

Accordingly the court had concluded that the High Court had always had jurisdiction to impose consecutive sentences in any appropriate case where it had power to imprison.

The Official Solicitor had then submitted that the powers of the High Court were now governed by statute and that there was no statute giving it power to impose consecutive sentences for civil contempt; there was no inherent jurisdiction left to do what might otherwise have been permissible at common law.

However, *Morris'* case showed that the court's inherent jurisdiction to punish contempt of court subsisted and had not been cut down by statutes dealing with imprisonment for crime.

A county court was now a superior court for the purposes of section 14 of the 1981 Act and could thereby imprison a contemnor for as long as the High Court could, and it would be surprising if it did not have the same power as the High Court to impose consecutive sentences.

In the court's judgment the same reasoning as that which it had applied in relation to suspended sentences led to the conclusion that section 38 of the 1984 Act did give the county court power to impose consecutive sentences, and the prescribed forms of committal warrant and order in the County Court Rules were not sufficient to override that conclusion, founded as it was on right and justice.

However, none of the notices issued to the defendant to show cause why he should not be committed for contempt had been signed by the proper officer, and that defect, as the plaintiff had conceded, rendered the committal orders invalid.

Where a man's liberty was at stake every requirement of the law must be strictly complied with, and although the court could disregard a defect if it could properly be regarded as insignificant (see *Burrows v Iqbal* (unreported, June 7, 1984)), those defects were not insignificant because the requirement that the notice be signed by an officer of the court was designed for the protection of the contemnor and compliance should be insisted on.

Solicitors: Official Solicitor; Gates & Co, Steyning.

Verbal limit of undertaking

Tufbox Ltd v Post Office

Where an undertaking had been given not to market goods under a confusingly similar name to other goods, that undertaking related only to visual or aural similarity and not to conceptual similarity, Mr Justice Scott held in the Chancery Division on December 12, when refusing an application for an injunction.

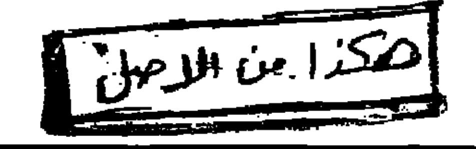
Tufbox Ltd had applied for an injunction against the Post Office restraining it from marketing a transport box under the name "Sturdi Box", in alleged breach of a consent order, being a compromise of passing off and trade mark proceedings, whereby the Post Office had agreed not to market their boxes under the name "Tuf Box" or any name confusingly similar thereto.

Lesbians have no family link

Harrogate Borough Council v Simpson

Dismissing an appeal against a possession order on December 11, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Ewbank) held that a woman who lived in council accommodation with another woman, a secured council tenant, and who shared a committed, monogamous, homosexual relationship with her, could not in law be described as living with the tenant as husband and wife.

She was therefore not a member of the tenant's family within the meaning of section 50 (3) of the Housing Act 1980, and accordingly was not entitled to succeed to the tenancy on the death of the tenant under section 30 (1) and (2)(*b*) of the 1980 Act.



Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Selling ideas to the Germans

The German motor industry has been telling us for so long how good its cars are and how professional the people who make and sell them are that it comes as a shock to learn that the German car dealers are babes in arms compared with their British counterparts in the business of selling used cars.

German dealers are not interested in part-exchange deals. They encourage motorists to sell their old cars privately by offering a much bigger discount than if they have to take them in.

This has led to big business in private sales, including regular sale days on hotel and supermarket parking lots where for a nominal payment the private owner can display his two-year-old Golf and wait for the best offer.

Inevitably there are motorists who do not want to be bothered in this way and they include companies who negotiate a "take back" contract when buying new cars for their fleets.

The result is that, like it or not, some German dealers are saddled with used cars to sell. And that is where recent reports from Germany suggest they could learn a lot from their British opposite numbers. It seems that some of the Germans hang on to used car stocks for up to nine months. British dealers begin to panic after two months. Yet the problems are the same in both countries – large sums of capital tied up in stock which is depreciating visibly.

In this country when used cars "stick" there is a well-established remedy: pack them off to auction. And it is not just the dealers who use this method. Manufacturers wanting to dispose of this year's models to clear the decks for next year's, frequently sell them through closed "trade only" auctions.

But car auctions are almost unknown in Germany. The British-owned Motor Auctions Group wants to change that. In May it opened one of the first auction operations in the country at Bremen, near the Mercedes plant which produces that company's 190 compact range.

To smooth the way for such a pioneering effort Motor Auctions took on a large German car distributor, Autohaus Becker, as partner. Roger Brough, Motor Auctions' director of sales, tells me that it is a question of "steady pounding" until German motorists accept this new method of buying a used car. But he is so convinced of the long-term potential that he is already discussing another partnership, this time in central Germany.

The company he would like to get into bed with is the Massa hypermarket chain, which recently started to sell Austin Rover cars in 22 showrooms on land adjoining its stores. Initial sales went so well that Massa now wants to offer its customers part-exchange deals on the British pattern. But first it must have an outlet for the used cars.

Unlike established German dealers, Massa's hypermarket success is built on a rapid turnover with small profit margins. It plans to use the same strategy for its new cars venture and says it will double Austin Rover sales in Germany in two years.

In the first month alone it sold 672 cars, 200 more than its original target.

Many people will be surprised that David Wickins and his British Car Auctions group, the largest in Europe, is not getting in on the German act.

The reason, apparently, is his huge commitment to the United States, where in the past couple of years he has been buying auction companies and injecting the sort of expertise that has made his BCA a household word in the motor trade.

But he has not written off Germany. Tom Maddon, BCA's sales director, tells me he is watching German developments closely."

New Mercedes

Mercedes Benz customers buy solid, rather conservative but expensive-looking cars which suggest that the owner is himself an emenently trustworth citizen with a happy bank manager behind him. Trendy body shapes are definitely out and turbocharges are frowned on. Until the compact 190 appeared two years ago Mercedes handling was good, but nothing to get excited about.

Now the Stuttgart company's designers and engineers have given the 190 treatment to the new W124 replacement for its biggest-selling range, the 200 to 300 series which fills the gap between the 190 and the top-of-the-range "S" class.

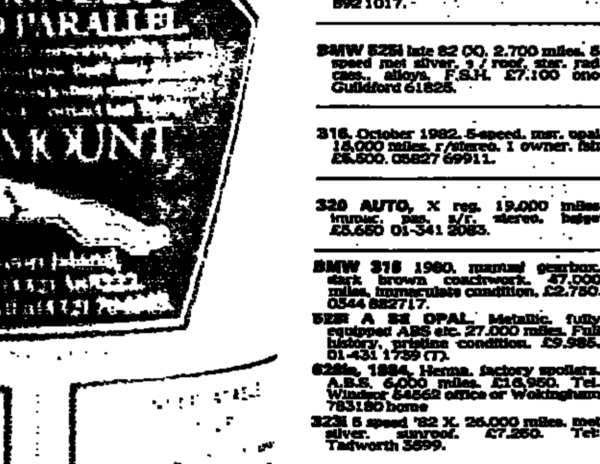
The multi-link rear suspension developed for the 190 has been adapted for the new mid-series range.

It is about the same size as its predecessor but faster, lighter, more economical and so much more responsive when thrown into tight corners at speeds no self-respecting Mercedes owner would dream of using.

Despite its slightly more wedge-shaped look, the W124 is still unmistakably Mercedes, but its much-improved handling will win back some of the enthusiastic drivers who deserted the three-pointed star for more macho cars in the first flush of promotion.

Now a little older, but still in love with fast cars, they could satisfy this need and still pander to the solid-citizen image.

Mercedes would be hard-pressed to find worse conditions for testing a new car than those we met in the flooded Spanish countryside around Seville. Much of the chosen test route was impassable, but thanks to the presence of Spanish policemen on every major raod intersection, a subsitute route was pressed into service at the last minute and proved more than exiciting.



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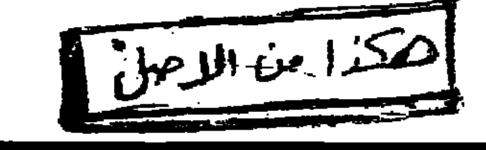
also on page 33

PLAY OF THE YEAR
MICHAEL CRAWFORD
BARNUM
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
ADRIAN MOLE

CINEMAS

EXHIBITIONS

ART GALLERIES



Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour, and at 8.59; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening advice at 7.32; plus Mike Smith's review of the pop music scene; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer file; and Glynn Christian's best of Christmas food bargains.
9.00 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga. The 20th and last lesson: The Cat (r).
9.10 Mastermind. The final of the 12th series, presented by Magnus Magnusson on board HMS Hermes in Portsmouth. Jill Goodwin answers questions on the lives of Charles II and James II; Richard Joby on the Great Eastern Railway 1862-1922; Kate Vernon-Parry on the life and work of Arthur Ransome (r). 9.45 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School (r). 10.50 Ceefax.
12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. The weather details come from Ian McCaskill. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).
1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes Peter Seabrook's gardening advice, 1.45 Little Misses and the Mister Men (r). 2.00 Day Out. Gwyn Richards is in Tewkesbury on the junction of the rivers Avon and Severn in Gloucestershire, the site of the battle that ended the War of the Roses.
2.30 Film: Obliging Young Lady* (1941) starring Edmund O'Brien and Eve Arden. Romantic comedy about a reporter and a girl he meets on a station platform. Directed by Richard Wallace. 3.45 Regional news (not London).
3.50 Play School, presented by Carol Leader. 4.10 The Family-Ness. 4.15 Jackanory. David Bax reads the final part of The Cybil War. 4.30 Benji, Zax and the Alien Prince.
4.50 Hartbeat. Tony Hart and Gabrielle Bradshaw make pictures from print blocks. 5.15 Crackerjack presented by Stu Francis. 5.58 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 London Plus.
6.55 Cartoon. Tom and Jerry.
7.00 Blankety Blank. Les Dawson's panel this week consists of Jimmy Cricket, Bella Emberg, Sarah Greene, Mike Nolan Duncan Norvelle and June Whitfield.
7.35 What a Carry On. A compilation of the funnier scenes from the successful Carry On series of films.
8.05 Bergerac. Jersey's first major professional fight is threatened when Bergerac is forced to arrest one of the boxers. Starring John Nettles (r) (Ceefax).
9.00 News with Julia Somerville.
9.25 Starsky and Hutch. Part two of Set Up in which an assassin has gunned down a pregnant woman. A man has surrendered to the police but nothing about him seems to check out (r).
10.15 International Show Jumping. David Vine introduces the Cognac Courvoisier Napoleon Stakes, from the Grand Hall, Olympia. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley.
11.25 James Last in Scotland, introduced by Ken Bruce. Mr Last's Orchestra recorded at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh, and on Gleneagles and St Andrews golf courses.
12.15 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen: News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; guests, Robert Hardy and Max Bygraves, from 6.45; exercises at 6.46 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 6.51; Jan Walsh with advice on Christmas gifts at 7.10 and 8.47; pop video at 7.54; Jeni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; Christmas holiday breaks in England at 9.06.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Tomorrow's People. 9.47 How We Used to Live. 10.09 Ways with Words. 10.26 People and Politics: Does Parliament have the final word? 10.48 Who cares about local councils? 11.10 Playtime.
11.25 Let's Pretend to the tale of The Hippo, the Peacock and the Giraffe. 11.40 Mooncat and Co with guest Kenny Lynch.
12.00 Teetime and Claudia. The last programme in the series for the very young (r). 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets and guest; John Styles (Oracle). 12.30 Never Too Early, Never Too Late. Education from the point of view of the consumer (Oracle).
1.00 News at One. 1.20 Thames news with Steve Clarke.
1.30 Film: Showdown at Abilene (1956) starring Jock Mahoney. A former sheriff returns home after service in the Civil War a changed man – he has become gun-shy. Directed by Charles Haas. 3.00 University Challenge. Magdalen College, Oxford, against the Open University. The first semi-final. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters.
4.00 Rainbow. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 Wil Cwac Cwac. Tales of a duck who is always in trouble. 4.25 The Wind in the Willows. Rat and Mole find something they have never dreamed of. 4.50 Illusions. Fergus Roy investigates how magicians make use of fire, air and water. 5.15 Blockbusters.
5.45 News. 6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show. Michael Aspel and his team take a lighthearted look at London life.
7.00 Airwolf. Stringfellow and Dominic are hired as stunt men for a film about the theft of gold bullion. Unbeknown to them the film is a front for a real robbery (Oracle).
8.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Game show in which competitors test their knowledge of public opinion and their luck at the turn of a card.
8.30 Hallelujah! Comedy series starring Thora Hird as Salvation Army Captain Emily Ridley (Oracle).
9.00 Eh Brian, It's a Whopper. Comedy drama series about the members of a Midlands course angling club (Oracle).
10.00 News at Ten.
10.30 The London Programme, presented by John Taylor, examines the re-selection problems faced by a number of London Labour MPs including Peter Shore in Bethnal Green and Sam Silkin in Deptford.
11.00 Snooker. A semi-final match in the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship.
12.15 Live from London. The Belle Stars in concert.
1.15 I Spy. Spoof secret agent series set in the Far East starring Robert Culp and Bill Cosby (r).
2.05 Night Thoughts from Dr Sheila Cassidy.

Lesley Abdela: panellist on Any Questions? (Radio 4, 8.45pm)

● Sister Genoveffa Cali gives her life, as a nun, to the Church. Dario Fo gives much of his, as an actor and writer, to mocking it. They are BBC2's odd Italian couple for this evening – she, the ninth of ten Friday night **ITALIANS** (8.30pm) and he: the subject of a repeated profile from **ARENA** (9.25pm). It is deliberate scheduling, the link cemented when Fo – a stout, rubicund sixty – is glimpsed in satirical habit and wimple. First, the real thing. The slices of life offered in Italians have been widely criticized as, sociologically, prosciutto-thin. If ever true, the criticism was not applicable to last week's portrait of an Alfa Romeo car worker or to this, which lifts the veil from the life of a nun – one of 150,000 in Italy. She handles nudge-nudge questioning on celibacy with conspicuous aplomb.

CHOICE

While the nun counters social unrest through prayer and counsel, the actor exorcizes Italy's ills through laughter. Dennis Marks' film examines the medieval roots of Fo's stage technique and features extracts from *Mistero Buffo*, a petrol-bomb monologue hurled at religious and political icons. Both films are gilded by the beauty of the language bubbling under the sub-titles.

● Produced by BBC Scotland (who showed it first), **OPEN TO QUESTION** (BBC2, 5.20pm) is a cross between *Question Time* and the old Val Singleton children's show *V.I.P.*, allowing those below voting age to grill, roast or revere the celebrated. This week's guest, Arthur Scargill, faces questions fired with a partiality which would lose Sirs Alistair and Robin their jobs – "How *dare* you say . . .", "You and your red friends . . .", "As a Communist, Mr Scargill. . . . " The discussion mines no new seams of inquiry but provides a reiteration of the Scargill positions and the attitudes of a section of the next but one electorate.

● On an empty-shelved night of television scheduling, Radio 3's **BROOMHOUSE REACH** (7.00pm) shines more invitingly than ever. As the shade of the dead composer, Mendl, observing the pitiful fumblings of mortals, David de Keyser's voice is a cocktail of disdain and disgust; like God giving a press conference after the events in the Garden of Eden.

Mark Lawson

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.
3.45 Film: Joan of Paris* (1942) starring Paul Henreid and Michelle Morgan. French Resistance drama about a Free Frenchman, Paul Lavallier, of the RAF's Squadron 701, who is forced to bail out of his 'plane into occupied France along with four of his comrades. They head for Paris in anticipation of being put in touch with an escape route back to England. Directed by Robert Stevenson.
5.15 News summary with subtitles.
5.20 Open to Question, presented by Hilary O'Neill and Michael MacFarlane. Seventy young people, drawn from nine schools all over Scotland, question the miners' leader, Arthur Scargill (see Choice).
6.00 The Invaders. Science fiction serial. In tonight's episode David Vincent, after weeks of careful observation of aliens at a huge oil complex, obtains a computer tape of extra-terrestrial origin. Starring Roy Thinnes and guest Ed Begley.
6.50 Choir of the Year 1984. The first semi-final of the competition and six choirs compete for three places in the final.
7.30 Three in the Wild. The sixth and final film of the series and the second one on Toran, the Dartmoor pony.
8.00 Call My Bluff. Frank Muir with Joanna Lumley and John Dunn challenges Arthur Marshall and his team of Sue MacGregor and Nicky Henson to a duel of witty words.
8.30 Italians: The Sister of Spoleto. The story of Sister Genoveffa Cali, a nun for 35 years, who entered a convent against her father's wishes. Today she is a novice mistress with six young girls in her charge (see Choice).
9.00 M*A*S*H. Charles is made charity collection officer but bribes Hotlips to take over. Thus begins a passing the buck exercise that ends with a rather cross Fr Mulcahy.
9.25 Arena: The Theatre of Dario Fo. A profile of the celebrated Italian playwright whose political affiliations had, until recently, precluded his entry into the United States. He is filmed working with students and performing at the Venice Carnival his hilarious one-man show, Mistero Buffo (r).
10.15 Very Exceptional Soldiers. Veterans of the opening campaign of the First World War recall their experiences on the battlefield.
10.45 Newsnight.
11.30 Film: Two Weeks in Another Town (1962) starring Kirk Douglas, Cyd Charisse and Edward G. Robinson. The story of a has-been actor, living in Rome, who wants to make a comeback. Charisse plays his ex-wife and Edward G, a film director having trouble with his latest epic. Directed by Vincente Minnelli. Ends at 1.20.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 Snooker. The opening frames in a best-of-17 semi-final of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship.
4.30 Countdown. The second quarter-final pits four times winner Colin Pearce, the number two seed, against Liverpool's Leslie Olson who has won twice.
5.00 The Addams Family.* Morticia asks the rest of of her family to part with treasured objects in order that they may be auctioned for her favourite charity.
5.30 The Tube, presented by Jools Holland and Paula Yates, includes music from Lee "Scratch" Perry, the Council Collective, Danielle Dax, Play Dead and the Greatest Show on Legs. There is a film of Prince in concert; a video of Bob Marley; and a special Motown package which includes an interview with Vanity and archive film of some of the Motown greats. Plus Jimmy Ruffin in the studio.
7.00 Channel Four News, with Trevor McDonald, includes a report from Lawrence McGinty on the findings of British specialists on the controversial ultra sound scanning of pregnant women.
7.30 Right to Reply, presented by Gus Macdonald. A working miner from South Yorkshire and a viewer from Hertfordshire complain about the People to People programme, Get it Shown.
8.00 What the Papers Say. Jimmy Reid, once a vociferous trade unionist, now a freelance journalist, casts a critical eye over how the Press has treated the week's news.
8.15 A Week in Politics. Peter Kellner comments on the Enfield Southgate by-election; there is a film report on the Conservative Party's changing views on unemployment; and Peter Jay interviews Leon Brittan.
9.00 Tell the Truth. Gyles Brandreth, Brian Hayes, Gloria Hunniford and Debbie Rix have to discover who of three guests has a genuine claim to fame.
9.30 In Search of Paradise. The history of gardens continues with a comparison of French formal gardens like Versailles and the British landscaped gardens such as those at Chatsworth (r).
10.00 Newhart. American comedy series starring Bob Newhart.
10.30 Just Sex. The final programme of the series examines how attitudes to sex have changed over the past century.
11.20 Film: Don's Party (1976) starring Ray Barrett. Black comedy about the guests at a party thrown by a supporter of the Australian Labour Party in anticipation of Gough Whitlam triumphing in the 1969 general election. Directed by Bruce Beresford.
1.00 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave. † stereo on VHF.
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing; Weather. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. The castaway is the Director-General of the British Council, Sir John Burgh (r).†
9.45 Lady Lazarus. Vernon Scannell, the poet, tells the story of a strange meeting in the summer of 1976.
10.00 News: International Assignment.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Massage' by Brian Glanville. Read by the author.
10.45 Daily Service: Ruth (NEM, Page 13).†
11.00 News; Travel; What's the Alternative? Barbara Myers investigates alternative therapies.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 Top of the Form. A general knowledge quiz between schools in Great Britain. Second semi-final. (14) West v North (2) (r).
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Northern Ireland. Includes an item featuring the travel writer Dervla Murphy.
3.00 News; Masters' India. An 18-part serialisation of John Masters' saga. Book Three: The Lotus and the Wind (2). (r)
4.00 News; My Kind of Folk with Isla St Clair.
4.10 The Mind in Focus. Last in the series exploring current thinking in psychology. 5: Memory.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Woman in Black' A ghost story by Susan Hill (5). Read by Alan Dudley.
5.00 PM: News Magazine.
6.00 The Six O'clock News.
6.30 Going Places. Transport and travel.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week. Extracts from BBC television and radio programmes, chosen by Margaret Howard.
8.20 Stop Press. Nigel Rees reviews the newspapers.
8.45 Any Questions? from Thame, Oxfordshire. The team includes Lesley Abdela, Geoffrey Robinson MP and Emma Nicholson. With John Timpson.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts Magazine.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Mr Facey Romford's Hounds' by R.S. Surtees (Last of 15 parts).
10.30 The World Tonight: News.
11.00 Today in Parliament.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Week Ending. Satirical review. 12.00-12.15 News; Travel.
VHF (available in England and S Wales only). Radio 4 vhf is as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 11.00-12.00 For Schools: 1.55-3.00pm For Schools: 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Telemann's Violin Concerto No 11 in B flat (Iona Brown, violin); Beethoven's Triumphmarsch, WoO 2a; Dvorak's Rondo in G minor Op 94 (Sadlo, cello); Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 4 (Earl Wild, with the RPO).† 8.00 News.
8.05 Concert: part two. Novak's In the Tatras Op 26; Johann Strauss's (arranged Godowsky), Wine, Woman and Song (Cherkassky, piano); Zeller's Schenkt man sich Rosen (Lorengar, soprano); and Holst's Beni Mora.† 9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Sibelius. Royal Liverpool PO play The Tempest Op 109; Matti Vainio, organ, plays the Funeral Music Op 111 No 2; and the Philharmonia play Tapiola, Op 112.†
10.00 Three Romantic Piano Sonatas: Edith Vogel plays Schumann's Sonata in F sharp minor, Op 11.†
10.35 Langham Chamber Orchestra (under Maurice Handford). Vaughan Williams's Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus; arranged Harty A John Field Suite; and Ibert's Divertissement.†
11.30 English Songs: Wynford Evans (tenor) with Stephen Rose (piano). Quilter's To Julia: and Britten's Holy Sonnets of John Donne Op 35.†
12.15 Midday Prom: Part one. Christiane Edinger (violin) with BBC Philharmonic Orchestra (under Boettcher). Part one. Schubert's overture Rosamunde; and Berg's Violin Concerto. † 1.00 News.
1.05 Talking Fish: Poems, read by the Barrow Poets.
1.20 Prom: part two. Strauss's Le bourgeois gentilhomme.†
2.05 Baermann and Beethoven: Alberni String Quartet, with Georgina Dobree (clarinet), John Pigneguy (horn) and Anthony Halstead (horn). Baermann's Quintet in E flat Op 23; and Beethoven's Sextet in E flat Op 81b.†
2.40 Dutilleux and Messiaen: Dutilleux's Timbres, espace, mouvement; and Messiaen's Les Offrandes oubliées.†
3.25 W F Bach Keyboard Music: Alan Cuckston (harpsichord) plays the Fantasie No 8 in C minor; the Polonaise No 10 in F minor (F/12/10); and the Sonata No 6 in E flat major.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: from St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Organist and Master of the Choristers: Andrew Padmore.† 4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another of Fritz Spiegl's selections of music.†
6.30 Guitar Music: Costas Cotsiolis plays works by Rodrigo, Albeniz, Jorge Morel, Leo Brouwer, Carlos Farinas and Lauro (El niño).
7.00 Broomhouse Reach: the fourth movement of Colin McLaren's suite in six movements.†
7.30 BBC Symphony Concert: BBC SO (under Sir John Pritchard) with Imogen Cooper (piano) and Anne Queffelec (piano). Part one. Stravinsky's Symphonies of wind instruments (1947 version); and Mozart's Concerto in E flat for two pianos, K 365.†
8.10 Pleasure, Voyages and the Mad Doctor of Canton: Norman Rodway reads from William Hickey's memoirs.
8.30 BBC Symphony Concert: part two. Strauss's Ein Heldenleben.†
9.30 Matteo da Perugia: Medieval Ensemble of London perform Sera quel zorno mai Trover ne puis.†
9.45 Of Cadres and Kings: the seventh and final programme in John Keay's series about life in South-East Asia. A Cleaner, Greener Land. The continuing crisis in Kampuchea.
10.30 Voices and Clarinet: Jane Manning (soprano) with Alan Hacker (clarinet). Zvi Avni's Leda and the Swan; Birtwistle's Deowa; and James Wilson's The Windhover.†
11.00 Ayres for the Theatre: the Parley of Instruments play works by Henry Purcell.†
11.30 Mozart: Netherlands Wind Ensemble with Ameling and Cooymans (sopranos) and Peter Van der Bilt (baritone). Divertimento for three basset horns K 439b No 2) and four Notturni. Kk 437, 439,346 and 436.
11.37 News. Until 12.00.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry.† 5.30 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan† including 8.31 Racing. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Steve Jones† including 1.05 Sports Desk. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford† including 2.02; 3.02 Sports Desk. 3.30 Music All The Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† including 4.02; 5.05 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn† including 6.02 Sports Desk, 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night from the Fairfield Hall, Croydon.† 8.20-8.40 John Boyden traces 80 years of orchestral music-making Britain. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket. 10.30 Nights at the Paris Olympia. French entertainers who appeared at the Olympia in the 1970s 11.00 Stuart Hall (stereo from midnight) 1.00am Nightride.† 3.00 Big Band Special.† 3.30-4.00 String Sound.†

Radio 1

6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12 midnight. 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates. 12.00pm Gary Davies including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Mark Page. 4.30 Select-a-Disc, with Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00-12.00am The Friday Rock Show.†

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Juke Box Jury. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Incredible Flautists. 8.30 The Spirit Of Kitty Hawk. 9.00 World News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Not So Much A Hobby 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Cole Porter And His Music. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme 10.30 Business Matters 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In The Meantime 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz For The Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours 1.30 John Peel 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Letterbox 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Glenn Miller – A String Of Pearls. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Science In Action. 4.45 The World Today 5.00 World News. 5.09 Sarah And Company 8.00 World News. 9.15 Music Now 9.45 Nineteen Eighty-Four 10.00 World News 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial News 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From The Weeklies 11.30 Hollywood's Oscar Nights. 12.00 World News 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Recording Of The Week. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Outlook. 1.30 Cole Porter And His Music. 1.45 Letterbox. 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People And Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just A Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 That's Trad. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 Wales: 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 4.30-4.50 Hartbeat (as BBC1 4.50pm). 4.50-5.30 Crackerjack (as BBC1 5.15pm). 5.30-5.35 Interval. 5.35-5.58 Wales Today. 6.30-7.00 The Good Life. 12.15am-12.20 News and weather. Scotland: 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 6.30-7.00 Reporting Scotland. 7.35-8.05 Zoo 2000. 12.15am-12.20 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 6.30-6.55 Inside Ulster. 12.15am-12.20 News and weather. England: 6.30pm-6.55 Regional news magazines.

S4C 1.00 Countdown. 1.30 Alice. 2.00 5 Lon Goch. 2.15 Interval. 2.30 International Snooker. 4.30 Evolution. 4.45 Hanner Awr Fwy. 5.30 The Tube. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 I Weld Llais a Chlywed Llun. 8.00 Pobol y Cwm. 8.30 Y Byd Yn Ei Le. News Headlines. 9.15 It's Never Too Late. 9.45 Tell the Truth. 10.15 Film: Days of Heaven (Richard Gere). 11.55 Newhart. 12.25 Soap. 12.55 Close.

SCOTTISH As London except: starts 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Silver Spoons. 10.50 Chips. 11.40 World Famous Fairy Tales. 1.20 Scottish News. 1.30 Hart to Hart. 2.30-3.00 Farmhouse Kitchen. 3.30-4.00 Comedy Tonight. 6.00 Scottish News and Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Funny You Should Say That! 10.30-11.00 Ways and Means. 12.15am Late Call. 12.20 Close.

GRAMPIAN As London except: starts: 9.25 First Thing. 9.30 Sesame Street. 10.25 A Christmas Memory. 11.25 Little Rascals Christmas Special. 11.55 Cartoon. 1.20 North News. 1.30-3.00 Film: Trent's Last Case (Margaret Lockwood). 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15 North Headlines, Weather. 12.20 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

HTV WEST As London except: starts 9.25 Home Cookery Club. 10.30 Boy of Central Africa. 10.45 The Fabulous Funnies. 11.10 Silver Spoons. 11.35-12.00 The Pumpkin who couldn't Smile. 1.20 HTV News. 1.30-3.00 Film: Murder by Proxy* (Dane Clark). 6.00 HTV News. 6.30-7.00 Sidestep. 10.30 Your Say. 10.35 The West This Week. 11.00 Snooker. 12.15 Weather and Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00-7.00 Wales At Six. 10.30-11.00 Showbizz.

TVS As London except: starts 9.25 Holiday Time. 9.28 Sesame Street. 10.25 The Groovie Ghoulies. 10.50 Tale of Pom Pom. 11.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. 11.50-12.00 Mr Magoo. 1.20 TVS News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.32 Jemima Shore Investigates. 2.35 Three Little Words. 3.00 Afternoon Club. 3.27-4.00 The Young Doctors. 5.12-5.15 TVS News Headlines. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Keep it in the Family. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15am Company, close.

CHANNEL As London except: starts: 9.25 Chips. 10.20 British Achievements. 10.45-12.00 The Man from Button Hollow. 1.20 Channel News. 1.30-3.00 Film: Casanova's Big Night (Bob Hope). 3.30 A Piper to Muscadet. 3.57-4.00 Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Channel Report followed by Report Sport. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 10.34-11.00 In Camera. 12.15 News and Weather in French, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: starts 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Matt and Jenny on the Wilderness Trail. 10.45 Sport Billy. 11.05-12.00 Strawberry Ice. 1.20 Granada Report. 1.30 Just Our Luck. 2.00 The Adventurer. 2.30-3.00 The Glass Box. 3.25 Granada Reports News 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 6.00 Granada Reports News. 6.05-7.00 Weekend. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15 Film: Quatermass II (Brian Donlevy). 1.45 Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: starts 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Spread Your Wings. 10.50 Cartoon Time. 11.05 The Wine That Sings. 11.55-12.00 Wattoo Wattoo. 1.20 Anglia News. 1.30-3.00 Film: The Kid from Texas (Audie Murphy). 3.25-3.30 Anglia News. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15 Portrait of a Legend (Tony Orlando). 12.40 Norfolk Stories, close.

CENTRAL As London except: starts 9.25 Once Upon a Time . . . Man. 9.50 The World of James Michener. 10.50 Film: Never Look Back* (Rosamund John). 1.20 Central News. 1.30-3.00 Film: The Odd Job (David Jason). 3.25-3.30 News Headlines. 6.00-7.00 Central News. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15 Film: Death Car on the Freeway (Shelley Hack). 1.45 Close.

TYNE TEES As London except: starts: 9.25 North East News. 9.30 Sesame Street. 10.25 The Nature of Things. 11.15 The Peterborough Country Music Festival. 11.35-12.00 Kum Kum. 1.20* North East News and Lookaround. 1.30 Legmen. 2.30-3.00 That's My Dog. 3.25*-3.30 North East News. 6.00 North East News. 6.02 Three Little Words. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 10.32 Snooker. 12.15 Three's Company. 12.20 Closedown.

TSW As London except: starts 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Gurkhas in Nepal. 10.50 Space 1999. 11.40-12.00 Prairie Habitat. 1.20 TSW News Headlines. 1.30-3.00 Film: Casanova's Big Night (Bob Hope). 3.57-4.00 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 What's Ahead. 10.34 Snooker. 12.15am Postscript. 12.20 Weather, close.

ULSTER As London except: starts 9.25 The Day Ahead followed by Sesame Street. 10.25 Island Wildlife. 11.15 The Smurfs. 11.40 Kum Kum. 1.20 Lunchtime. 1.30-3.00 Film: The Amorous Prawn (Ian Carmichael). 3.30 The Protectors. 3.58-4.00 Ulster News. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.20 Sportscast. 6.45-7.00 Advice with Anne Hailes. 10.30 Snooker. 12.10 Witness. 12.15 News.

BORDER As London except: starts 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Struggle Beneath the Sea. 10.50 The Greatest Adventure. 11.35-12.00 Britannia. 1.20 Border news. 1.30-3.00 Film: Crooks Anonymous (Leslie Phillips). 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 6.00 Lookaround Friday. 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15am News summary. 12.18 Close.

YORKSHIRE As London except: starts: 9.25 Weather, followed by Sesame Street. 10.25 Country Rhapsody. 10.35 The Groovie Ghoulies. 11.00-12.00 Pink Floyd at Pompeii. 1.20 Calendar News. 1.30 Film. The Delphi Bureau (Celeste Holm). 2.55-3.00 Aloft in the Rigging. 3.25-3.00 News Headlines. 6.00 Calender. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 10.30 Snooker. 12.15 Rock of the Seventies. 12.45 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

also on page 32

Kinnock seeks 'shoot-to-kill' investigation

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday called for an inquiry into allegations that the security forces in Northern Ireland operate a shoot-to-kill policy.

During a visit to Londonderry he said an inquiry would alleviate fears that such a policy existed and would not undermine the police and army.

His demand for an inquiry came a week after two Provisional IRA gunmen were shot dead by under-cover soldiers in the grounds of a psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of the city. Daniel Doherty and William Fleming died as they rode a motor cycle on a murder mission. Their deaths brought protests from national politicians about the type of force used to kill them.

A handgun found near both men was used in seven murders of civilians and police officers in Londonderry between 1981-83.

Mr Kinnock said an inquiry would demonstrate that situations like that in Derry were anticipated and people had acted responsibly.

The Opposition leader said undercover security operations were necessary although regrettable, because of the organizations and conditions created by those using violence. He recognized the need for an informer system that as long the situation in the province remained as it was.

Mr Kinnock criticized the Prime Minister's response to the New Ireland Forum report as "immature and very damaging". But his comments appeared to offer little hope that under Labour there would be much more than a consultative role for the Irish republic in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

Dusty Spence, aged 51, the longest serving prisoner in Ulster jails was released yesterday on medical grounds.

TUC seeks pits peace against NCB scepticism

Continued from page 1

seven-member liaison group after today's initial conversations with Mr Walker.

Mr McGahey added: "Our main interest is to settle the dispute. After ten months our people are suffering. We are desperately anxious to end this dispute. But it must be on a principled basis."

Moderates on the NUM executive believe that the latest move holds out considerable hope. Mr Trevor Bell, secretary of the white-collar colliery staffs section, said it could bring about a more relaxed atmosphere for talks.

The union executive also decided yesterday to take legal advice on the activities of "dissidents" in the Nottinghamshire coalfield who are proposing to adopt a new constitution for the area union that would remove it from the authority of the national executive.

Mr Scargill in court, page 2

Ministers play down revolt by back-bench

Continued from page 1

the new council to do much of the work for which ministers want to create joint boards of borough councillors and a new quango abolition.

But Mr Greengross said that the Government had admitted ineptly in the Local Government Bill last month that it would be hard to fit some GLC tasks into the proposed new structure. Mr Greengross listed some as "recreational, open spaces, Green Belt, computer services and the scientific branch".

He said that GLC Conservatives wanted a new elected council to organize all of those and the London fire brigade. But the new council should do nothing which the London boroughs could do individually.

Although ministers have repeatedly refused to consider a "mini-GLC" after abolition, Mr Greengross insisted that the council's Conservatives were not being disloyal in campaigning vigorously for it.

"I think the Conservative group in county hall has been amazingly loyal," he went on. "There has been a tremendous temptation for someone to get up and say the Government is mad." Geoffrey Smith, page 4

Ethiopia aid

Christian Aid yesterday spent £500,000 sending wheat to Ethiopia – the largest single grant in the charity's history. Its grants to Ethiopia since January total £4,123,000.



Mrs Maxwell: Her husband consults her before major decisions.

Mirror trust based in tax haven

By Philip Robinson

A number of offshore charities and relatives of the grandparents of Mr and Mrs Robert Maxwell were revealed yesterday as ultimate owners of Mirror Group Newspapers.

Mr Maxwell, the son of a Czechoslovakian peasant, paid £113 million for MGN last summer through his private UK company, Pergamon Press Ltd. It was assumed then that ownership of the newspaper group which publishes the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sunday Mirror*, the *Sunday People* and *Sporting Life*, remained in the UK.

But Mr Maxwell, who also owns Britain's largest printers, the British Printing & Communications Corporation, recently pointed out that he has always stressed he was the publisher rather than proprietor of the *Daily Mirror* – which has "Forward with Britain" incorporated in the masthead.

But the United Kingdom group's ultimate holding company has been disclosed as Pergamon Holding Foundation, a trust registered in Liechtenstein, a tax haven and known for its corporate secrecy.

The foundation took on the shares in Pergamon Press from a corporation formed 10 years ago called Microforms International Marketing Corporation and was said to be owned by the interests of Mr Maxwell's wife, Elizabeth.

Mrs Maxwell, aged 63, whose maiden name is Maynard, is French and believed to be from Huguenot stock. The two met in September 1944 at the liberation of Paris.

In an interview given soon after Mr Maxwell bought control of MGN, Mrs Maxwell described her husband as "the proprietor" of the *Daily Mirror*. She added that her husband had not taken a major decision without consulting her first.

However in a formal statement last night Dr Walter Keicher, who has personally acted for the Maxwell family for 20 years and who is the resident director of the foundation, said that disclosures required by Liechtenstein law are "limited in character".

Dr Keicher said through London merchant bankers Henry Ansbacher and company that the ultimate beneficiaries of the foundation were a number of charities and relatives of the respective grandparents of Mr and Mrs Robert Maxwell, not resident in the UK.

The surprise offshore ownership of the *Daily Mirror* was confirmed as part of Mr Maxwell's unsuccessful attempt to bid £44 million for John Waddington the Monopoly games maker.

Bid lapses, page 23

Warnings of disaster ignored in Bhopal

Continued from page 1

secretary, said there had been pipeline leaks "every week" in the plant where deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) was stored and processed. Leaks were plugged with a temporary stopping which was effective for about a week. He said, too, that maintenance staff had been reduced.

According to Mr Gupta and Mr Jariwala, water leaked into the MIC tank through a faulty seal and started a reaction which led to a rise in temperature. Eventually MIC leaked when safety devices failed.

The union leaders are understandably frustrated because their warning were not taken seriously enough for the faults to be rectified. They are blaming the press for not taking up their battle.

This accusation, however, is not a fair one. Newspapers have certainly reported anxiety about the safety of the Union Carbide plant. Mr Masan Mohan Joshi, a journalist on a leading Hindi newspaper here said: "We have had many articles criticizing the plant's safety, and we wrote angry editorials.

"There were some young engineers at the plant who used to brief us. They said the plant was dangerous, that we were sitting on a volcano. After what we heard we expected something – but nothing as bad as this".

Two years ago, Mr Rajkumar Keswani, a journalist, wrote three articles in a weekly paper in which he warned of trouble, noting that the MIC plant, which started operating in 1980, had caused problems from the start. One of the articles was headed: "Bhopal on brink of a volcano". He wrote another warning article in a Delhi daily newspaper in June of this year.

Although Union Carbide has insisted that the Bhopal plant is the same as their other MIC plant in West Virginia, one of the company's inspectors has said in an interview that the safety systems at Bhopal were not up to American standards. He inspected the plant two years ago.

Meanwhile the flow of people moving out of the city, driven by fear of another leak, is growing.

It is not a wild panic. But it is certainly a determined evacuation by frightened people who have no faith in the assurances of the authorities. The exodus may have an effect on voting in Bhopal in the coming general election. Many people may not wish to return in time to vote.

Letter from Moscow

Kremlin mobilizes wartime memories

A rather grubby typewritten notice was tacked up the other day on the main door of the Russian block of flats next to ours, not far from the centre of Moscow. It was signed by the "domkom", the "house committee" or "residents' committee", which keeps an eye on communal behaviour and enforces collective orthodoxy.

"All those citizens who possess medals won in the Great Patriotic War", the notice read, "are to hand them in for checking by January 1, 1985, in preparation for the victory parades."

The Soviet Union, like tsarist Russia before it, is a very status-conscious society, and almost everybody boasts a number of wartime decorations and orders. Memories of the "heroic struggle against the fascist aggressors" are kept alive deliberately by the constant reminders of the threat from without.

Even now, when Moscow is gearing up for a rapprochement with the United States after President Reagan's re-election, American generals and politicians are depicted in terms almost indistinguishable from those used to describe the Nazis.

The message is clear: We defeated Hitler's Germany yesterday, and if necessary we will defeat Reagan's America tomorrow. All over Russia, foreigners falling into conversation with local citizens are likely to find themselves rounded on with the heartfelt cry: "Why do you want to make war on us? We only want peace".

The response, "But we don't want war either", tends to be brushed aside, since by harping day in and day out on the aggressive threat from America and Nato, the Kremlin has succeeded in terrifying most of the Soviet population into believing that nuclear war is imminent and that only passionate Soviet calls for peace prevent Mr Reagan from pressing the button.

"This Reagan hates us, he wants to destroy us", a middle-aged lady said recently to a Western diplomat visiting a provincial Russian town. "But I am not American," the diplomat protested. "You are all the same", the woman spat back. Any attempt to discuss Soviet weaponry compared to American weaponry is swept aside with the simple formula: You want war, We want peace.

The campaign will reach a crescendo in May, when Russia celebrates the 40th anniversary of "the victory over fascism". Already a huge, grandoise World War Two "victory" monument is rising on a hill on the road to Borodino, site of an earlier battle against Napoleon, and a spate of articles is appearing glorifying Soviet feats of arms and ridiculing the suggestion that the Western powers aided Russia through wartime Lend-Lease. Already the medals are being polished up. "I think I shall leave town next spring", one West German diplomat said afterwards, reflecting a widespread feeling that this barrage of overwhelming propaganda is producing a wave of anti-German (rather than anti-Nazi) sentiment.

There are drawbacks to the campaign, including the uncomfortable fact that Russia's wartime leader was Josef Stalin, now all but unmentionable because of his crimes (or "errors"). Some of those handing in medals have been told that the face of the great dictator which adorns one side must be erased and replaced.

A no less serious drawback for Russia's present leader, President Chernenko, arises from the embarrassing fact that he lacks a wartime record to match that of the millions who will be marching in the victory parades. Mr Chernenko spent the war as a party official in his native Krasnoyarsk, deep in Siberia.

To compensate, the Soviet press has been building up Mr Chernenko's image as a man of courage, who experienced combat as a border guard in Kazakhstan in the 1930s. A film of these exploits, called *Frontier Post Youth*, has been made.

The film was reported to have been released in Moscow, although it has not so far been advertised on any posters. One reason could be that comparisons are bound to arise with the books and films of Brezhnev's wartime exploits under fire, still fresh in people's memories. For that matter, the main film now showing in Moscow cinemas is *Marshal Zhukov*, a biography of the man whose brilliant generalship during the war made him a genuine folk hero.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art: (ends Jan 5); and drawing in the Highlands by Josef Herman: (ends Jan 25): Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill. Mon to Sat 10 to 5. Thurs 10 to 8. Sun 2 to 5.

The British Sporting Art Trust prints: Dorset County Museum, Dorchester: Mon to Sat 10 to 5: (ends Jan 31).

Manchester Works, work by Manchester secondary schools and colleges: Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9; (ends Dec 21)

Christmas paintings by Falmouth children: Falmouth Art Gallery, The Moor: Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30; (ends Jan 11).

Country and wildlife drawing and paintings by John Edwards: Chesterville Gallery, Chester Rd North, Kidderminster; Mon to Sun 5 to 9; (ends Dec 23).

Last chance to see

White Christmas: crafted pieces in shades of white: Scottish Craft Centre, 140 Canongate, Edinburgh, 10 to 5.30.

Music

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Town Hall, 7.

Concert by Southampton Philharmonic Society, University Choral Society and the Bournemouth Sinfonietta: Guildhall, Southampton, 7.30.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Christmas music

St. Edmund's School carol service; Canterbury Cathedral, 7.

Hellesdon High School carol service; Norwich Cathedral, 7.30.

Christmas concert by Cambridge Philarmonic Society; Guildhall, Cambridge, 8.

Christmas carol concert with Bampton School Recorder Group and the Bampton Singers; St. Mary's Church, Bampton, Oxon, 7.

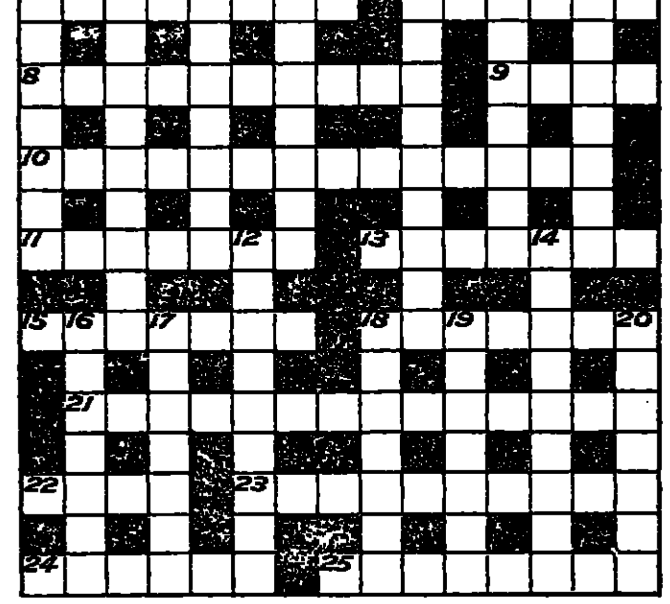
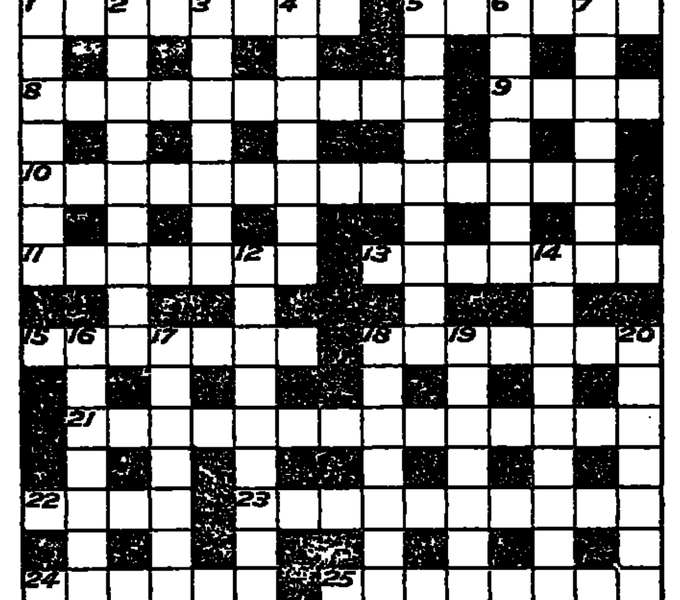
Music for Christmas; Glasgow Cathedral, 7.30.

Town Carol Service; Walsall Town Hall, 6.45.

General

Christmas Extravaganza; Dominican Friary, Eastgate, Beverley, 10 to 7 daily (ends Dec 17).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,611

ACROSS

1 Live a dull life when victory sign is out of reach (8).
5 Swaggering walk with which a couple can change direction (6).
8 Mrs Mopp receives one as president (10).
9 Sound scale to quote (4).
10 Ancient Mariner a pain in the neck as related by Scheherezade (3,3,2,3,3).
11 Hamlet's last golden utterance (7).
13 A nobody such as Evelyn? (7).
15 Put together first of many held by police at random (7).
18 Race official for opening course (7).
21 Singular piano composition in the isle – The Witching Time (9,5).
22 Living here enjoyed by a trimmer – seems to sound asinine (4).
23 Flog standard measure tea mixture (10).
24 Attack very musical student (6).
25 Give help to Old Contemptibles unhappily in red (8).

DOWN

1 Grabbing a copper in France you look so dumb (7).
2 Tricky feat for Q's followers in the old county (5,4).
3 Land appears to soak up the downpour (7).
4 Volume about pig-raising – not a game for many (7).
5 Everything's divine, he says (9).
6 He prosecutes an employer of 300 (7).
7 This could wound a girl (7).
12 Vivid description of an artist's palette (9).
14 Maybe treating 4's till to make it whole? (9).
16 Strife among dons changed the way ahead (7).
17 Flourishing, the sun-god, in the old Syrian city (7).
18 Hair-do seen on the beach (7).
19 Such an eclipse to invalidate a king (7).
20 As sentries do their beats – tired with this, it's said? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 16,610

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Parks register

The first register of historic parks and gardens in England was launched in London yesterday by English Heritage. It is being compiled on a county basis and entries for the whole of England should be completed by the end of 1986. The register should highlight the importance of gardens and parks and act as a warning to ill-considered development.

Anniversaries

Births: James Bruce explorer, Larbet, Sterlingshire, 1730; George VI, reigned 1936-52, Sandringham, Norfolk, 1895.

Deaths: Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Hamburg, 1788; George Washington, 1st president of the USA 1789-97, Mount Vernon, Virginia, 1799, Albert, Prince Consort to Queen Victoria, Windsor, 1861; George Hudson, the 'railway king', London, 1879; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, prime minister 1923-24, 1924-29, 1935-37, Astley, Worcestershire, 1947; Edward John Higgins, 3rd general of the Salvation Army, New York, 1947; Juho Kusti Paasikivi, president of Finland, 1946-56, Helsinki, 1956; Sir Stanley Spencer, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, 1959.

Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole, 1911.

In the General Election of 1918, Countess Markievicz became the first woman to be elected to Parliament, (Dublin, St Patrick's) but as a member of Sinn Fein did not take her seat.

Today is the Feast of Saint John of the Cross; born in 1542; he ordained a priest in 1567. He was persuaded by Saint Teresa of Avila to join the Discalced Carmelites, a course which led him to imprisonment.

Food prices

Traditional farm fresh turkeys are best buy this year, according to the National Farmers Union. These birds are not only reared in open barns, but after hand plucking are allowed to hang for seven days to mature before cooking. Because of the individual attention involved they will of course be more expensive than the frozen variety, but no dearer than last year. Prices range from £1-£1.15 a lb.

Although auction prices for beef have increased, retail prices for stewing and fillet steak have only risen by about a penny. Rump and sirloin are a little cheaper. The range for fore-rib roast is £1.26-£1.76 a lb, topside and silverside £1.96-£2.30. Home produced lamb leg and loin chops are up a penny, but best end and shoulder unchanged. Leg of pork ranges from 98p to £1.29, boneless shoulder £1.02-£1.41 and loin chops down slightly at £1.30-£1.54 a lb. Some good meat buys are Tesco's Grade 'A' standard turkeys at 52p a lb; Sainsbury's boneless gammon joints £1.68 a lb; Fine Fare leg of pork (frozen) 99p.

Landings of cod and whiting have been very good and there is a wide range of fish available. Cod ranges from £1.20 to £1.60 a lb, large whiting 70p, hadock £1.80, plaice fillets £2.10, Cornish mackerel 60p, pollock cutlets 75p a lb and pollock fillets £1.

Safeway have now introduced a new delivery service for Swiss chocolates by post, which should help busy shoppers. Prices start at £3.50 and include postage and packing.

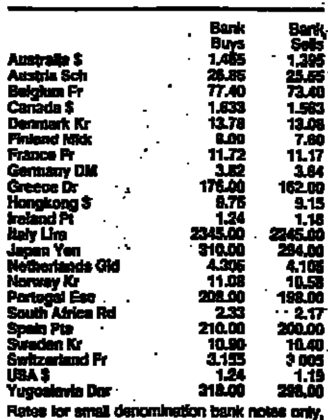
Safeway Farm House Blue Stilton is down 11p a lb to £1.99. Excellent Tesco Christmas puddings come in two sizes: 200 grams for 64p and 750 grams £1.75.

Supplies and quality of home produced fruit and vegetables are very good and prices are not expected to change much before Christmas. There is a wide variety of apples, and there should be plenty of Brussels sprouts for Christmas dinner.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on social security board and lodgings and homeless people.

The pound



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.485	1.395
Austria Sch	26.85	25.55
Belgium Fr	77.40	73.40
Canada $	1.633	1.563
Denmark Kr	13.78	13.08
Finland Mkk	8.00	7.60
France Fr	11.72	11.17
Germany DM	3.82	3.64
Greece Dr	176.00	162.00
Hongkong $	8.75	9.15
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.18
Italy Lira	2345.00	2245.00
Japan Yen	310.00	294.00
Netherlands Gld	4.305	4.105
Norway Kr	11.08	10.58
Portugal Esc	208.00	198.00
South Africa Rd	2.33	2.17
Spain Pta	210.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.40
Switzerland Fr	3.155	3.005
USA $	1.24	1.19
Yugoslavia Dnr	318.00	298.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 357.7.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 5.3 on Friday at 927.6.

Roads

Wales and West: A55: Contraflow on Llandulas by-pass between Aberdale and Colwyn Bay. A30: Roadworks between Exeter and Launceston Rd at Sticklepath, and temporary lights at Lifton.

The North: A49: Roadworks on Scotland Rd, Warrington; diversions. A1: Roadworks at Beal, S of Berwick-upon-Tweed. A616: Major roadworks from Deepcar, through Stockbridge to Langsett: delays.

Scotland: A75: Bypass construction at Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbright. A1: Bypass construction W of Tranent. A82: Bridgework three miles S of Fort William: single line traffic with temporary lights (24hrs).

M25: Both carriageways between junctions 5 and 6 have now been re-opened. M26: also re-opened.

Information supplied by the AA

Top films

The top box-office films in London:

1 (–) Ghostbusters
2 (–) Gremlins
3 (5) The Killing Fields
4 (3) A Private Function
5 (1) Give My Regards to Broad Street
6 (2) 1984
7 (4) The Woman in Red
8 (–) Le Bal
9 (8) Full Moon in Paris
10 (10) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

The top films in the provinces:

1 1984
2 Give My Regards to Broad Street
3 Party Animal
4 The Woman in Red
5 Bachelor Party

Supplied by *Screen International*

Childrens travel

British Airways has opened an airport lounge at Heathrow designed especially for children with food, games, television, and video games. It is part of a package which includes special in-flight food and trained escorts.

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

A depression near SW Scotland will move slowly N.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N, NE England, East Anglia, E, W Midlands: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind SW moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales: Showers or longer periods of rain, some sunny intervals; wind W fresh or strong, locally gale; max temp 10C (50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW England, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain turning showery later; wind SW light or moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Cloudy rain, hill and coastal fog, drier later; wind E moderate veering S later; max temp 5C (41F).

Central Highlands, NW Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain; wind E veering SW light or moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain or drizzle at times; wind E moderate or fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

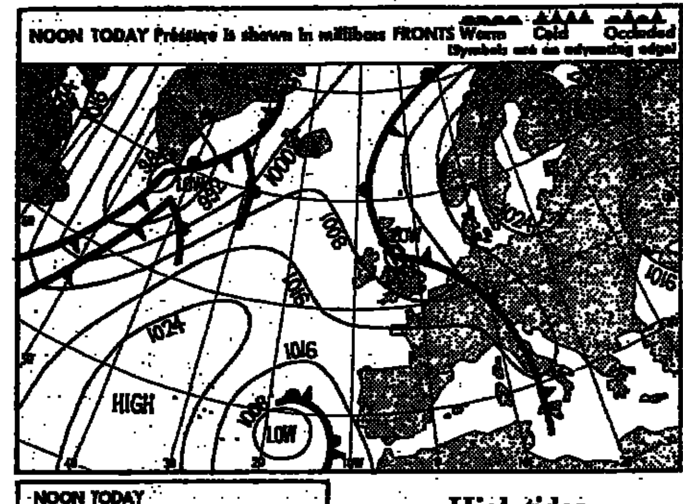
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Scattered showers or longer spells of rain in the N, sunny and dry weather in the S extending to all parts; temperatures mostly near normal.

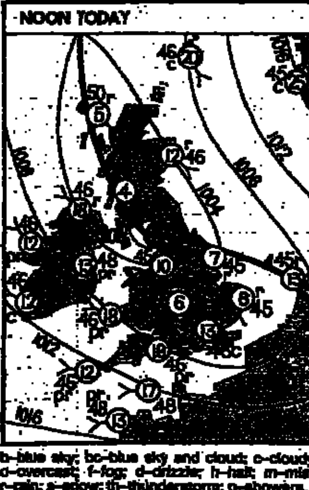
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind SW moderate or fresh showers; visibility moderate or good; sea moderate. Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind W fresh or strong; showers; visibility moderate or good; sea moderate or rough. Irish Sea: Wind W modertate increasing strong; occasional rain; visibility moderate or good; sea slight becoming rough.

Sun rises: 7.59 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm

Moon sets: 12.22 pm Moon rises: 10.39 pm

Last quarter: Tomorrow.





b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures-fahrenheit.

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.30 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 8.08 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 7.49 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.45 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	7	45	Guernsey	f	10	50
Birmingham	c	4	39	Inverness	s	5	41
Blackpool	c	3	37	Jersey	f	9	48
Bristol	c	8	46	London	c	6	43
Cardiff	c	6	43	Manchester	c	4	39
Edinburgh	c	5	41	Newcastle	d	5	41
Glasgow	s	5	41	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Humidity: 6pm, 87 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, a trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 1.17 hr. Bar, mean sea level: 6pm, 1004.8 millibars, and falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

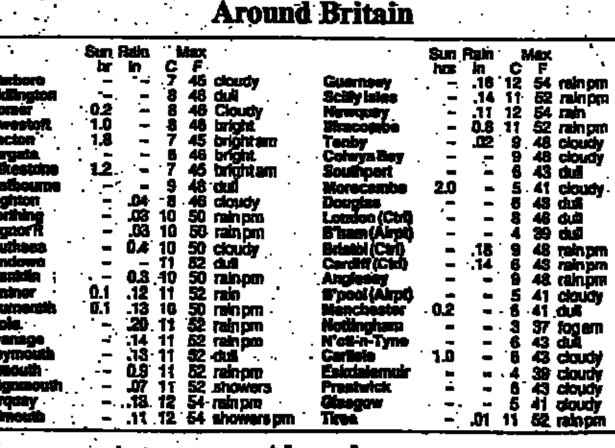
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cape Rath 17C (63F); lowest day max: Nottingham 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Isles of Scilly 0.26 in; highest sunshine: Morecambe 2.0 hr.

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.20	6.5	5.57	6.8
Aberdeen	5.25	3.8	5.23	3.9
Avonmouth	10.58	11.6	11.30	11.2
Belfast	2.43	3.1	3.05	3.6
Cardiff	10.43	10.8	11.15	10.4
Devonport	9.15	5.1	9.54	4.7
Dover	2.33	6.1	2.57	5.9
Falmouth	8.45	4.9	9.24	4.5
Glasgow	4.30	4.4	4.34	4.8
Harwich	3.23	3.6	3.56	3.8
Holyhead	1.58	4.9	2.16	5.1
Hull	10.09	6.5	10.16	6.5
Ilfracombe	9.43	8.1	10.19	7.7
Leith	6.32	4.9	6.57	4.9
Liverpool	2.49	8.3	3.08	8.4
Lowestoft	12.36	2.4	1.48	2.2
Margate	3.28	4.5	4.04	4.4
Milford Haven	10.04	6.2	10.40	5.8
Newquay	8.58	6.2	9.37	5.9
Oban	9.13	3.5	10.08	3.1
Penzance	8.23	5.2	9.06	4.7
Portland	10.19	1.9	11.15	1.5
Portsmouth	3.12	4.3	3.23	4.1
Shoreham	2.47	5.8	3.08	5.5
Southampton	2.36	4.2	2.47	4.1
Swansea	10.02	8.3	10.34	7.9
Tees	7.42	4.7	7.49	4.9
Walton-on-Naze	3.11	3.9	3.48	3.9

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	–	7	45	cloudy
Bridlington	–	–	8	46	dull
Cromer	0.2	–	8	46	Cloudy
Lowestoft	1.0	–	8	46	bright
Clacton	1.8	–	7	45	bright am
Margate	–	–	8	46	bright
Folkestone	1.2	–	7	45	bright am
Eastbourne	–	–	9	48	dull
Brighton	–	.04	8	46	cloudy
Worthing	–	.03	10	50	rain pm
Bognor R	–	.03	10	50	rain pm
Southsea	–	0.4	10	50	cloudy
Sandown	–	–	11	52	dull
Shanklin	–	0.3	10	50	rain pm
Ventnor	0.1	.12	11	52	rain
Bournemouth	0.1	.13	10	50	rain pm
Poole	–	.20	11	52	rain pm
Swanage	–	.14	11	52	rain pm
Weymouth	–	.13	11	52	dull
Exmouth	–	0.9	11	52	rain pm
Teignmouth	–	.07	11	52	showers
Torquay	–	.13	12	54	rain pm
Falmouth	–	.11	12	54	showers pm
Guernsey	–	.16	12	54	rain pm
Scilly Isles	–	.14	11	52	rain pm
Newquay	–	.11	12	54	rain
Ilfracombe	–	0.8	11	52	rain pm
Tenby	–	.02	9	48	cloudy
Colwyn Bay	–	–	9	48	cloudy
Southport	–	–	6	43	dull
Morecambe	2.0	–	5	41	cloudy
Douglas	–	–	8	48	dull
London (Ctrl)	–	–	8	46	dull
B'ham (Airpt)	–	–	4	39	dull
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	.16	9	48	rain pm
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.14	6	43	rain pm
Anglesey	–	–	9	48	rain pm
L'pool (Airpt)	–	–	5	41	cloudy
Manchester	0.2	–	6	41	dull
Nottingham	–	–	3	37	fog am
N'cstl-n-Tyne	–	–	6	43	dull
Carlisle	1.0	–	6	43	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	–	–	4	39	cloudy
Prestwick	–	–	6	43	cloudy
Glasgow	–	–	5	41	cloudy
Tiree	–	.01	11	52	rain pm

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	14	57	Cologne	s	6	43	Majorca	c	15	59	Rome	f	13	55
Akrotiri	f	13	55	Copenhgn*	f	4	39	Malaga	f	18	64	Salzburg	c	1	34
Alexandria				Corfu	s	13	55	Malta	f	17	63	Sao Paulo*	c	29	84
Algiers				Dublin	c	9	48	Melbourne	r	14	57	S Francisco*	s	13	55
Amsterdam	s	7	45	Dubrovnik	f	13	55	Mexico C				Santiago*	s	26	79
Athens	s	11	52	Faro	f	15	59	Miami*	s	25	77	Seoul	c	9	48
Bahrain	f	22	72	Florence	c	11	52	Milan	c	7	45	Singapore	f	30	86
Barbados*	f	28	82	Frankfurt	c	4	39	Montreal				Stockholm	c	1	34
Barcelona	f	14	57	Funchal	c	17	63	Moscow	sn	–8	18	Strasbourg	fg	1	34
Beirut	c	13	55	Geneva	fg	1	34	Munich	fg	–1	34	Sydney	s	27	81
Belgrade	s	6	43	Gibraltar	s	17	63	Nairobi	f	23	73	Tangier	c	17	63
Berlin	c	–1	30	Helsinki	s	–7	19	Naples	c	12	54	Tel Aviv	f	15	59
Bermuda*	s	21	70	Hongkong	c	20	68	New Delhi	s	21	70	Tenerife	f	21	70
Biarritz	c	11	52	Innsbruck	f	1	34	New York*	c	9	48	Tokyo	s	16	61
Boulogne	s	5	41	Istanbul	f	4	39	Nice	c	14	57	Toronto			
Bordeaux	r	11	52	Jeddah	c	24	75	Oslo	c	1	34	Tunis	s	14	57
Brussels	s	5	41	Jo'burg*	c	21	70	Paris	c	3	37	Valencia	s	18	64
Budapest	s	2	36	Karachi	s	24	75	Peking	s	5	41	Vancouver			
Buen Aires*	s	23	73	Las Palmas	s	21	70	Perth	c	20	68	Venice*	s	9	48
Cairo	f	15	59	Lisbon	f	14	57	Prague	fg	–2	28	Vienna	f	0	32
Cape Tn*	s	23	73	Locarno	c	7	45	Reykjavik	s	–2	28	Warsaw	c	1	34
C'blanca	s	20	68	L Angeles*	s	15	59	Rhodes	s	11	52	Washington*	f	9	48
Chicago*	r	8	46	Luxembg	fg	0	32	Riyadh	c	22	72	Wellington*	c	16	61
Ch'church*	r	16	61	Madrid	s	11	52	Rio de Jan	f	27	81	Zurich	c	2	36

* denotes Wednesday's figures are latest available